

# ORIGINAL PAPERS

Relating to the

## EXPEDITION

TO

## PANAMA.

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*Magna est Veritas, & prævalebit.*

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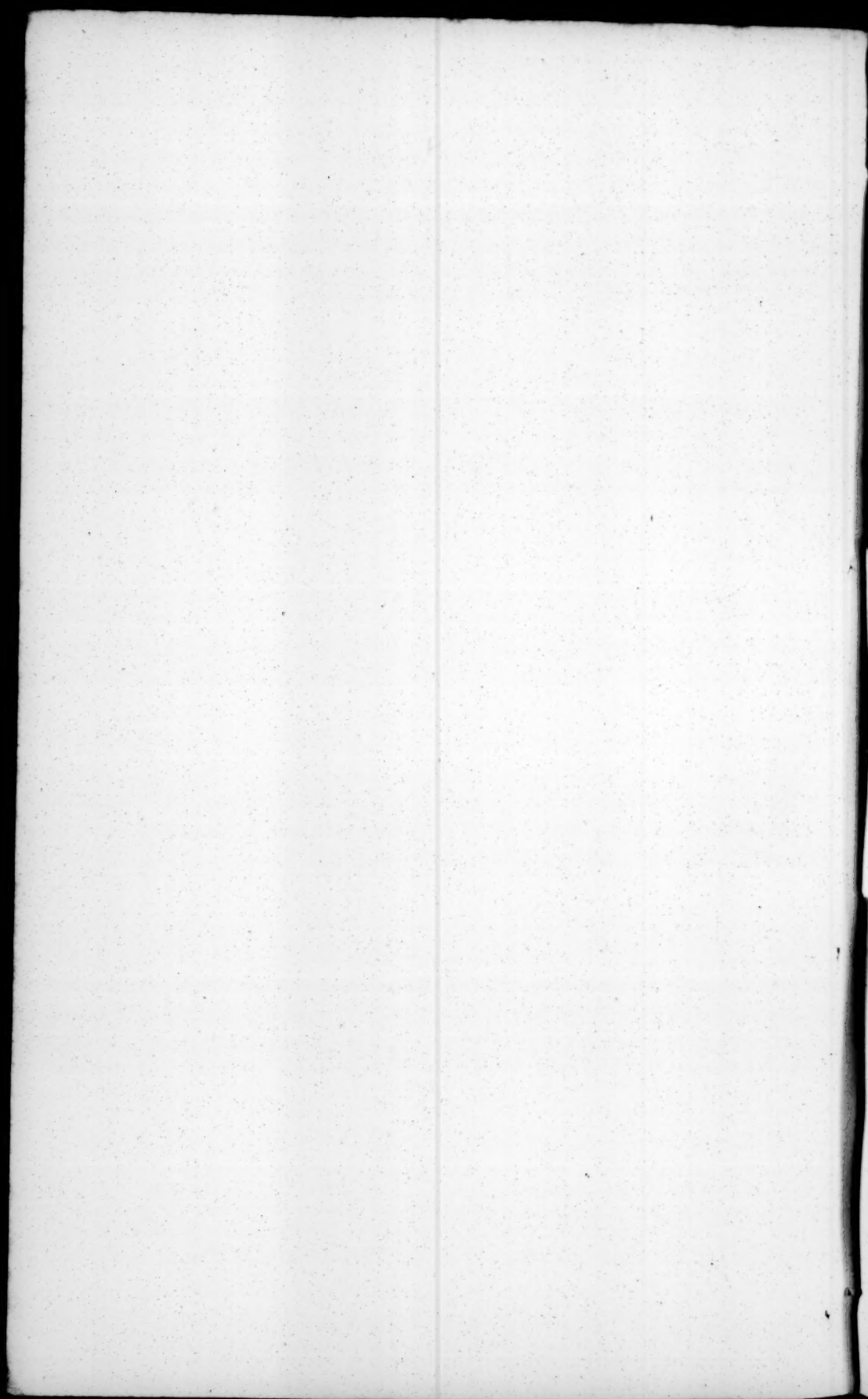
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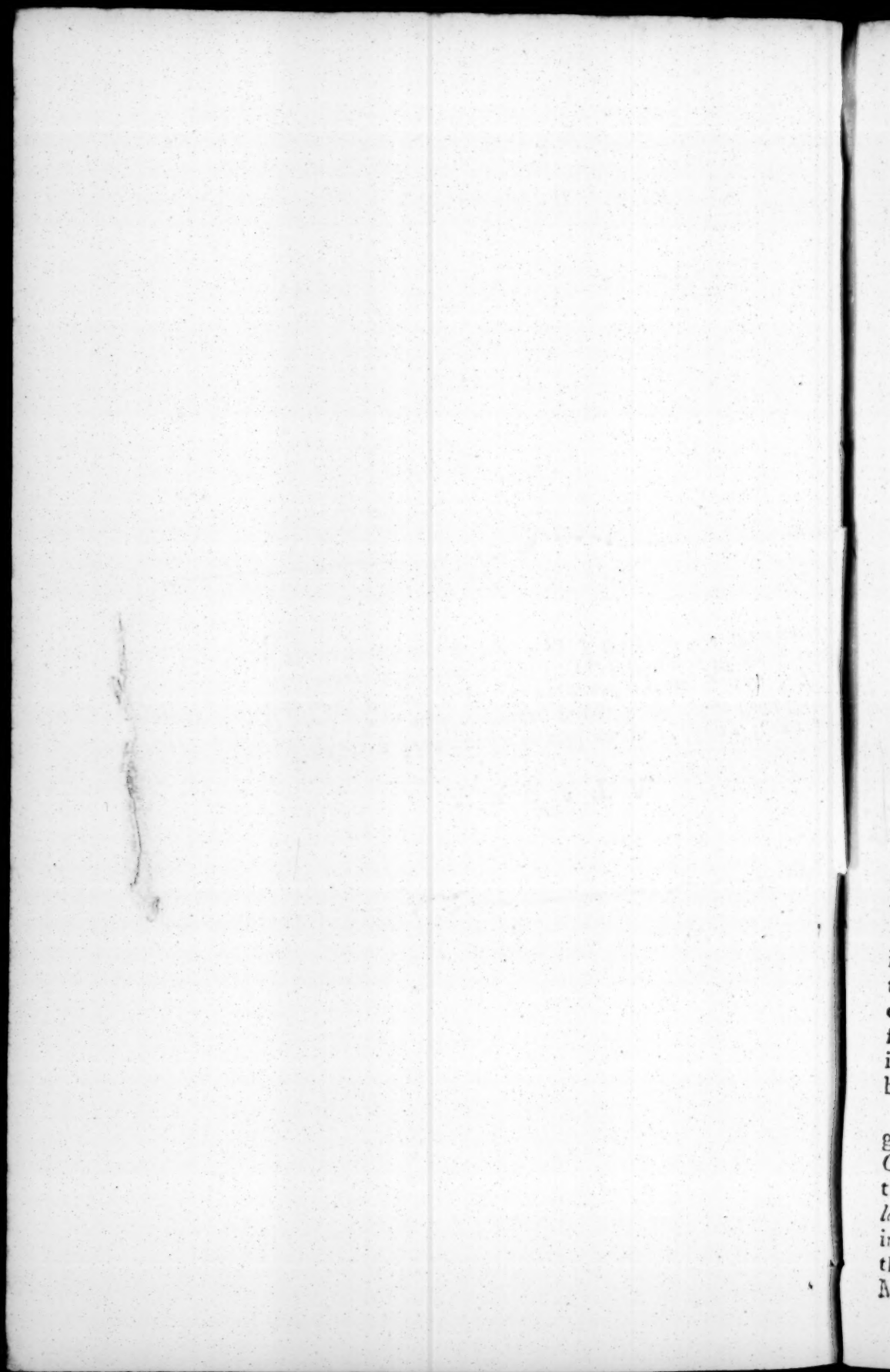
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# ERRATA.

PAGE 2. Line 22. for in read an. p. 24. l. 27. f. on r. in.  
 p. 51. l. 36. f. with r. within. p. 63. l. 32. after Point Canon  
 dele on the Brezes. p. 105. l. 21. f. and r. that. p. 149. l. 7. f.  
 Arcedunes r. Arcedeckne. p. 171. l. 14. f. Wrogg r. Wag. p. 180.  
 l. 23. f. many r. any. p. 201. l. 21. f. Wentworth, r. Wentworth's  
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# ORIGINAL PAPERS

Relating to the

## EXPEDITION to *Panama*.

S I R,

I HAVE received yours of the 25th of *December*, with an inclosed without date, signed by you, Mr. *Guise* and Mr. *Trelawney*, with your opinions for our holding a general council of war, as soon as we could, upon the receipt of his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle's* letters.

Capt. *Ward* delivered me these letters on Sunday morning the 3d instant, as Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I were in our way to *Jamaica*, for holding the said general council of war, after having first made a strong detachment for going to cruize off cape *Alta Vela*, for the security of the transports that I found were coming out with so weak a convoy, as two fifty-gun ships and a forty-gun ship, with four bombketches; I know the *French* have nothing as yet in these parts to annoy them, but God knows what may be at *Martinique*.

As we are all agreed in the expediency of holding a general council of war, as soon as may be, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I will be in *Spanish Town* on the 7th instant in the evening, for meeting you and Mr. *Guise* at Mr. *Trelawney's*, by nine o'clock on the 8th instant in the morning; and we shall take up our quarters at friends houses, that Mr. *Trelawney* may have accommodations for you and Mr. *Guise*.

B

I wish

I will take care to have Capt. *Lea* and Lieut. *Lowther* to attend the council of war for being examined, and desire you will give orders for Mr. *David Campbell's* attendance on the council, and any one else you think proper for giving information in the several projects that have been transmitted to you, and I have wrote to Mr. *Trelawney*, to have Mr. *Hodgson* to attend us.

And as I conceive, for drawing up our reasons for or against any thing proposed, it must necessarily draw our proceedings into great lengths, I shall decline acting any longer as secretary, but think it absolutely necessary, we should have a secretary to attend us, to take minutes, and draw up our proceedings and resolutions into form; and as they should be kept secret, I cannot think of any one so proper for it, as Mr. Attorney General, who is a sworn officer to keep secret the councils of the Crown; and I have desired Mr. *Trelawney* to request that favour of him.

I was exceedingly surprized upon reading Capt. *Trevor's* letter, that you had prevailed on him to give orders for the sick soldiers of the *American* regiment being received into the hospital for our seamen at *Port Royal*: in order, I conceive, that neither he nor I can justify, bringing such a charge on the navy, and which he may be liable to have charged upon his wages.

Whereas, Sir, you well know, you have an established hospital for your army, and much more numerous officers and surgeons appointed for the care of it, than we have, though we have a greater number of men to be taken care of; and you have likewise the strictest orders for the *American* regiment to be regarded in every respect, as the other forces your army is composed of, and have the large town of *Kingston* to provide quarters for them all in: Whereas we are so straitned in *Port Royal*, as not to be able to procure sufficient lodgment for our sick seamen. And as this is so inconsistent with what his Grace has recommended to us, an amicable union in all things; I must beg the favour, Sir, you will give immediate orders for the sick *American* soldiers, lent us to man our ships, being received into the army hospitals, agreeable to his Majesty's orders, whenever they have occasion for it, and that you will, by Capt. *Trevor*, let me know where such as have immediate occasion for it may be now sent accordingly from our ships come in with us, and coming in.

I will do all in my power, punctually to comply with his Majesty's instructions, and hope you will give immediate orders



orders for removing this stumbling-block, that I may leave the necessary orders behind me in that particular, before my going for *Spanish Town*.

I congratulate you on your late recovery from your fever, and with my best wishes for your health I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica Jan. 5, 1741.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

AS I think to comply with his Majesty's instructions, we shall want an able secretary, to take minutes, and draw up our proceedings and resolutions into form, at our next general council of war; I have desired the Governor to request that favour of you, as I judged you were the properest person for it, as a sworn officer to keep the secrets of the Crown. I take the liberty to request the favour of you to undertake it, on the Governor's requesting it of you, which I think very much for his Majesty's service, and shall be particularly obliged to you in it.

I think to take up my quarters with Dr. *Fuller*, or Dr. *Stewart* the night before. I am,

*Boyne, Jan. 5, 1741.*

S I R,

your most humble servant,

*Matt. Concanen*, Esq; his Majesty's  
Attorney General at *Jamaica*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE the favour of yours by Mr. *Wentworth*, and I believe, upon the strictest enquiry, you will find, Sir, that the sick *American* soldiers on board our ships, have had an equal attendance and care from our surgeons, as our seamen have, upon the assurance you gave me, that the surgeons should be paid their two-pence a man a month, by their officers, for such their care and medicines, which are all found at their own expence.

But when there is occasion to send men to the hospital, that is quite a distinct account, which Mr. *Tickell* is under contract with another branch of the navy for, the commissioners for sick and wounded seamen; and that is a large expence, as it costs near three shillings a man a day.

And I doubt not, Sir, but you have put your army hospital under some such contract, which you have much greater conveniency for at *Kingston*, than we can have in the narrow bounds of *Port Royal*. And as this regiment

is directed to be a part of your army, and treated in all respects as the rest of the forces, there can certainly be no proper charge on that head, but on the account of the army hospital.

But for those *Americans* already in our hospital, by Capt. Trevor's mistake on your assurance of repaying our contractor and surgeon for their expences, on their account, they may continue there 'till their recovery.

But I beg the favour you would send me word before noon to morrow, where such sick *Americans*, as now want being sent to your hospitals, may be sent, that I may leave the proper orders for it, before I go for *Spanish Town* to meet you tomorrow evening; as I apprehend, our council of war will take up two days at least, maturely to consider of all the proposals, and drawing our resolutions up into form. I am,

Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, Jan. 6, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I THIS morning received yours, of last night, (in answer to mine of yesterday, sent you by Mr. *Wentworth*) which was very short of my expectations.

However, Sir, I herewith send you, as you desire, an account of such soldiers of the *American* regiment, as require being sent to the army hospitals on shore, for their recovery; where only properly the expence on that account can be legally charged.

The hospital ship I expect in to day, with such as are sent from the ships left at sea to cruize for the protection of the expected convoy with the transports.

As you have been so long in harbour, I could not but conclude, your hospitals were regularly established; and being so, two lines serve for an order for their being received there, which, I beg the favour, you will speedily send me, for my sending the necessary directions in it, what scorbittick men want speedy relief, from fresh provisions, and the smell of the earth in quarters ashore. I am,

Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, Jan. 7, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient

P. S. You will see, Sir the number is but twenty for the present.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

Jan.

Jan. 7, 1741. An account of sick *American* soldiers on board his Majesty's ships under-mentioned, that require being sent to the army hospitals.

Boyne ———	John Gibson, Corporal	
	William Chadwick	
	John Fear	
	John Read	
	James Murray ———	5
Cumberland ———		3
Grafton ———	George Wansdale, Serjeant	
	John Hick	
	Adam Hoofman ———	3
Lyon ———	Luke Armsby	
	John Daugherty	
	James Ransom	
	James Loag	
	Andrew Hanley	
	Barnaby Cane	
	Moris Roach	
	Patrick M <sup>c</sup> Cuen	
	John Miser ———	9

Total 20

By *Edward Vernon*, Esq; Vice Admiral of the Blue, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the *West-Indies*.

**Y**OU are hereby required and directed to use all possible diligence in getting his Majesty's ship under your command refitted, and ready for proceeding to sea, upon the arrival of the convoy with the reinforcements, and have your ship watered and your provisions completed to four months.

And you are to take care to send your powder a-shore, and to have it well aired, sifted and dried, and all that is capable of it, put in condition for service, having ordered the hiring of a house on *Musquetto Point*, for the more safe and commodious doing the same, and lodging the persons to be employed in it, to secure them from the inclemencies of the weather. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica*, this 11th of *January, 1741*.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Watson*, of the *Boyne*.

The

The like of the same date was issued to the Captains of the ships undermentioned.

<i>Cumberland</i>	<i>Princess Royal</i>	} Hospital-ships.
<i>Grafton</i>	<i>Scarborough</i>	
<i>Lyon</i>		
<i>Defiance</i>	<i>Strombolo</i>	} Fire-ships.
<i>Strafford</i>	<i>Vesuvius</i>	
<i>Tilbury</i>	<i>Vulcan</i>	
<i>Ludlow-Castle</i>	<i>Phaeton</i>	
<i>Experiment</i>		
<i>Bonetta Sloop</i>		

S I R,

I HAVE received yours of this day's date by Lieut. *Hodgson*, with an inclosed list of such officers as you want to send to *England*, which I imagined might have been already gone, having sent orders for their having a passage home in the first of the unsheathed ships; and as there are four now fitting for the sea, with all the expedition we are enabled to give them, from the few hands we have to do it with, which are the *Prince Frederick*, *Prince of Orange*, *Augusta* and *Ferfy*, I will give orders for those officers passage in them, as you desire, as soon as they are ready; and the *Bristol* will be to sail as convoy to the merchant ships; so that the speediest passage will be to go by the others, whom I intend to make the best of their way home, as soon as they are ready.

As you have by the account you gave us at the council of war, much fewer remaining men fit for service, than will be absolutely wanting to put his Majesty's ships in condition for service, I apprehend there need not be any of the transports in the harbour required to go upon service with us, which would be a great saving to the Crown, in having such of them timely discharged, as are more than may be necessary for the accommodation of the officers.

I know of no particular carpenters impressed, though probably some may be so, as has been usual in this port, when his Majesty's service required it: the usual custom in those cases being to pay them ten shillings a day whilst detained, and then return them to where they were taken from. Capt. *Dent* I have heard has picked up some in that manner, but from whence I know not; and he will have done with them, and returned them before this week is out.

His



His Majesty's ships are so greatly reduced in their complements, that I am in no condition to send any of them to sea, without your assisting me with soldiers to enable me to do it; but if while they are in port, you have quarters on shore for them, for training them to a field discipline, I can have no objection to it, though if it be only to remove them into transports, I believe, Sir, you will agree with me, their officers can train them as well in our ships, as there: and for their being with us in detachments from several companies, you very well know that is not to be attributed to me, and that I shall be much better pleased with having it otherwise.

The most ships that I can expect to have at sea together of the line, will be ten sail, and as those are even much weaker than Don *Rodrigo de Torrez's* squadron, besides the more powerful squadrons, whose destinations are at present uncertain; and as being able to support ourselves at sea is the only security an army can have for undertaking any enterprize, I am persuaded, Sir, you will agree with me, that the making his Majesty's fleet as strong as we can ought to be the first and principal consideration.

The *Ludlow Castle* is the ship I mentioned to you at *Spanish Town*, that I designed to proceed with your recruiting officers for *North America*, and she shall be ready to proceed with them whenever you desire it.

And if you think the *Schooner* necessary to attend Mr. *Hodgson* with provisions, I am very far from having any objections to it.

As you have already promised to repay to our contractor and surgeon the expences accrued from their care of the *American* soldiers inadvertently sent to our hospital by Capt. *Trevor's* order, I have since entertained no other thoughts than directing the contractors and surgeon to draw out the account of that expence to you, as they come to be well enough to be discharged from the hospital.

I am sure the best time for sailing is the soonest that we can get ready to sail, delay being the most dangerous enemy in these climates. And for advice from where you wanted it, that is happily arrived ever since our last general meeting, and fully satisfactory in what it was wanted for.

The *Experiment* to go with Lieut. *Lowther*, and the *Bonetta* with Lieut. *Hodgson*, shall be ready to sail at the time you desire, with your assistance of such soldiers as they may absolutely stand in need of.

Governor



Governor *Trelawney* had a return of his fever on *Sunday*, but I waited on him on *Monday* morning, when he was taking the bark for it; and I desired he would get all our proceedings at our last general council of war, fairly engrossed as soon as he could, for our meeting again, to set our hands to what was then agreed upon, and taking maturely into deliberation what might be farther judged necessary, and I proposed to him his coming to take his quarters with Mr. *Dicker*, for our holding our next general meeting at Mr. *Dicker's* house, whom I am persuaded will with pleasure give a convenient room for it, and Mr. *Trelawney* very well approved of it, as it would not remove us from the reach of giving all necessary orders, and promised he would, as soon as his health permitted it, draw up all our proceedings in form, as was desired. And with your approbation should be glad we might meet there the beginning of next week, for I shall be taken up in giving the necessary orders at *Port Royal* all the rest of this week, after the Court Martial is over to morrow, which I am obliged to hold to check the torrent of our desertions.

I was concerned to observe that two of your surgeons were going home; and in the scarcity we all labour under in that particular, would it not be better to give them encouragement to stay with you? I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,* S I R,  
*Jamaica, Jan. 12, 1741.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE received yours of the 13th by Capt. *Cottrell*, which you had forgot to sign, but by a postscript to it in your own hand-writing, I see it came from you.

It is impossible for me, in the low state we are in, of wanting artificers of all kinds, to form any certain judgment, when our two seventy gun ships, and our two sixty gun ships can be ready to go home; to enquire particularly into which is one part of my business at *Port Royal*, but I think it cannot be sooner than the latter end of this month. And I have even a discretionary power to detain them here, if I should find his Majesty's service requires their continuance, but they appear to me to be in so bad a condition, that it is of absolute necessity they must go home for their preservation.

By the accounts received, the *Toulon* Squadron were at sea with five months provisions, without their particular destination

destination being known ; as likewise one of fifteen sail of *Spanish* men of war from *Cadiz*, the particulars of which shall communicate to you at our first meeting.

In the low condition of his Majesty's squadron that will be remaining in these seas, I am very clear in my opinion, that what is most for his Majesty's service, is, that the few of his Majesty's ships we have in the harbour should be kept in complete condition for service.

I have never, Sir, given any refusal to any thing you desire, but have thought it my duty to give my advice in any thing where I thought his Majesty's service particularly interested.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* will, I hear, return from *Spanish Town* to morrow, and I hope to dispatch my business at *Port Royal* by *Saturday*, so as to get to sleep at my house at *Kingston* the same night ; and will desire Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to dine with me on *Monday*, and that evening, if you approve of it, we will make you a visit, to consider deliberately what is most for his Majesty's service in the present critical conjuncture.

I could wish Mr. *Trelawney's* health would admit of his coming to Mr. *Dicker's* soon, and heartily wish for Mr. *Guise's* speedy recovery, for our meeting in a general council, and I think by that time the transports will be arrived, but if not, you can call whom you please, to consider calmly his Majesty's interests in our present conjuncture ; for should these squadrons be intended to join in these seas, we cannot answer how soon we may have a visit here, and believe such of his Majesty's ships as we can should be kept in a constant condition for service, which, I am sure, they cannot be without the assistance of your forces.

As I write this in a hurry, and hope to see you so soon, I hope you will be so good as to excuse my not having time to be more particular. I am,

Boyne, in *Port Royal Harbour*, S I R,

*Jamaica*, Jan. 14, 1741.

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received by Capt. *Willmot*, the favour of one of yours without date.

The *Experiment*, Capt. *Dennis*, designed for going with Lieut. *Lowther*, is ready for the sea at any time, wanting only a supply of men ; for which I have already acquainted

C

you,

you, that the assistance of a detachment of thirty soldiers of the *American* regiment, or from any other you shall think proper, will be wanted, and I must now desire you will be pleased to give orders for accordingly; and I will complete him for the rest with seamen, as well as I can, in our low condition, so that she can sail at any time desired.

I think the speedy assembling the council of war is the principal point to have our conclusions drawn up and signed by us, as now we have the succours arrived, as such will be an unalterable guide to us all.

I have already mentioned to you my intention of making you a visit with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to morrow evening, if you shall be at home.

And I will write to the Governor to day, to desire he would come to Mr. *Dicker's* as soon as ever he can, as I think no time should be lost, for the final conclusions of our deliberations; since all success in this country depends on expedition, and delay has ever proved the most fatal enemy.

*Kingslon, Jamaica,  
Jan. 17. 1741.*

I am, SIR,

your most obedient humble servant,  
Hon. General *Wentworth*. *E. Vernon.*

SIR,

I Have received your letter of the 16th, and was pleased to find your Excellency thought you were free from the apprehension of the return of your fever; and you have my best wishes for your speedy recovery.

As the succours are now arrived, I think the speedy assembling the general council of war, to be the point of the utmost importance to his Majesty's service, and therefore hope your Excellency will come over to Mr. *Dicker's* as soon as you can for that purpose, not only that what was couch'd in minutes may be fairly engrossed for being signed, but all other necessary points be maturely discuss'd, and our deliberations and resolutions be fairly drawn up and signed by us, that the execution of them may be speedily entered upon: Delay having by the experience of past times, as well as the present, been found to be the most dangerous enemy in these parts. I am,

*Kingslon, Jamaica,  
Jan. 17. 1741.*

SIR, your Excellency's

most obedient humble servant,  
His Excel. Gov. *Trelawney*. *E. Vernon.*

SIR,

S I R,

I T being for his Majesty's service, and the security of this expedition to have cruizers out both ways, for procuring the earliest intelligence of the motions of his Majesty's enemies, and preventing all surprizals from them, I have got his Majesty's ships the *Strafford* and *Tilbury* both ready to proceed to sea, on such necessary services.

But as in the low condition of his Majesty's fleet, the *Strafford* is by her last return one hundred and five men short of compliment, and the *Tilbury* likewise ninety-nine men short of her compliment, besides what they may respectively be obliged to leave sick in our hospitals; I must beg the favour you will be pleased to order those two ships, which will be in some sort our out-guards, to be each of them supplied with a detachment of fourscore soldiers of the *American* regiment, officers included, or from any other you shall think proper, and as speedily as you can, as they are in all other respects ready for the sea. I am,

Kingston, Jan.

23, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,  
Hon. General *Wentworth*. *E. Vernon*.

S I R,

I Send you inclosed, as you desired, a copy of the resolutions of the general council of war, taken yesterday evening; and likewise the resolutions taken the 20th, signed both of them by Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me, and the latter of them by Governor *Trehauncy*, as well as us.

And lest it might be missaid, I have added likewise my answer to what was desired in the general resolutions of the council of war of your officers.

And do assure you, Sir, it shall always be with great chearfulness and pleasure, that I shall forward every thing in my power for acting jointly with you, in putting in execution all resolutions of the general council of war, agreeable to both my duty and inclination. I am,

Kingston, Jan.

23, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,  
*E. Vernon*.

P. S. The general return of what battalion and company each respective detachment is on board our ships at present, I shall transmit to you by Monday night. Capt. *Trevor* and Capt. *Lawrence* will send theirs to night, of the few on board of them; which I desire the men now applied for may be in addition to.

Hon. General *Wentworth*.



S I R,

AS the latter part of our resolution yesterday, for the detaching two hundred soldiers to attempt the settlement of *Ratan* island, cannot, in my apprehension, be too soon entered upon; and as the *Experiment* and *Bonetta* sloop are both ready to be employed on that service, to whom I think to add a ship of greater force too, I wish you and Mr. *Trelawney* would as soon as you can conveniently settle all affairs for their setting out, appoint the officers and men for that service, and the transports to convey them and provisions for them, and be commissioning the Governor designed for it, and preparing the proper instructions for him.

And if they can engage the baymen to make that island their place of retreat in the rainy seasons, which lies so much more commodious for them, than the *Musquetto* shore, and engage the affections of some of the *Musquetto* men, to come and reside with them, I think it would lay the most solid foundation, not only to secure us the logwood trade, but opening a new branch of trade into the provinces of *Yucutan* and *Guatimala*, which extends into the *South Seas*. And verily believe, it would be acceptable to his Majesty, his ministers, and the whole nation, and that all the *American* forces who have engaged in the service with a view of settling here would be very well pleased to be settled there, as soon as his Majesty may have no further occasion for their service otherwise. I am,

Kingston, Jan.

23, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have just now received the favour of yours of this day by Mr. *Wentworth*, and I will send to Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to desire he would be here by ten o'clock to morrow morning, as you desire.

I send you an inclosed note, for Mr. *Trelawney's* and your consideration, in regard to the three *Spaniards* therein mentioned. I am,

Kingston, Jan.

24, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

BEing obliged to retire to a friend's yesterday, to have a little leisure to write my letters without interruption,



your favour of yesterday did not come to my hands till this morning.

I will be sure to give the orders you desire to Capt. *Dennis* of the *Augusta*, to receive on board Capt. *Burton*, whom you say is to be charged with your dispatches.

Lieut. *Lowther* told me to day he had not yet laid out the full money you had given him, but that could be done in a few hours ; but he said, he had not yet received any instructions from you in writing, which, I presume, you will think proper for him ; and at any time that he has his orders from you, and you will favour me with a line what orders you desire to be given to the Captain of the *Experiment*. Capt. *Dennis* is always ready to sail, and to take my sloop *Tender* under his convoy with Lieut. *Lowther*, to see him safe where he would be, and call for him again when he thinks proper : and as he is an officer in the King's service, he will have none in her but seamen in the Crown's service from the *Boyne*, he is Lieut. of ; for I can by no means think it for his Majesty's service he should go in a merchant sloop, where he can have no authority.

I send you likewise by Capt. *Durell*, the returns made me from all the ships now in the harbour, of the number of officers and men they have on board of the *American* regiment, distinguishing the battalion and company they respectively belong to. I am,

*Kingston, Jan.*

28, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I N answer to yours of the 28th instant, I have to acquaint you, that all the stores of the *Frederick*, Capt. *Boscawen*, have long been on board the *Humphry*, by orders given for it in my absence ; but as I hope the *Prince Frederick* will finish her careening this day, she will very soon clear her of them.

I send you inclosed an account of the numbers of men wanting to complete the ships I am preparing to carry to sea with me ; but cannot send you those of the ships I daily expect in, which are the *Kent* of seventy guns, the *Montagu*, *Worcester*, and *Rippon* of sixty guns, and *Tyger* of fifty guns, which will bring them to near what I computed them at.

As I go on board the *Boyne*, as soon as the noise and dirt of caulking is over, which will be about the middle of next week, I will from time to time acquaint you with the ships  
that

that are got in order for receiving the soldiers, for the transports being discharged, which is a very burthenfom expence on the Crown. I am,

*Kingsfor, Jan.*  
29, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

P. S. As I had closed my letter to you, I received the favour of one from you this morning, that occasions delay, for adding some answer by way of postscript.

The *Experiment* is ready to sail at any time; but as Lieut. *Lowther* is sent to procure, what you think necessary for the service of the army, in proceedings entirely under your conduct, it appears to me absolutely necessary he should have his instructions in writing from you; and on sight of them I shall conform my orders to Capt. *Dennis*, for the better execution of them, and the *Bonetta* Capt. *Lea* shall be ready to attend Lieut. *Hodgson* whenever you desire it.

What related to Negroes, I understood Mr. *Trelawney* was to be employing himself in sounding the inclinations of particulars, to furnishing them without a law for it.

As we have referred our final determination to the time of our being ready for entering upon action, which I cannot but think the most prudent resolution we could have taken, I believe it would be prudentest in us to confine all our present views in getting ready for action, and to leave deliberation to the time appointed; for as the sportsmen say, it is not good to hunt two hares at once.

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have just now received yours; and Lieut. *Lowther* knows my sloop *Tender* is man'd and victualled, and ready to receive him, who will be appointed to command her; so I apprehend all materially wanting is his instructions from you in writing, for my seeing first, properly to form my orders to Capt. *Dennis* that convoys him, and will cruize on the coast for favouring his execution of them. I am,

*Kingsfor, Jan.*  
30, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have just now received yours of this day, with the inclosed heads of instructions you intend to give Lieut. *Lowther*, who shall to morrow receive my orders for governing himself

himself by such instructions as you give him. And I will likewise in sealed orders to Capt. *Dennis*, to be open'd when he gets to sea, give him his orders to morrow for proceeding to sea, and taking under his protection the sloop *Tender* under Lieut. *Lowther's* command, to convoy him where he desires, and to settle a course of communication with him and cruize in his neighbourhood, for the better executing what he has your orders in.

Lieut. *Lowther* is to have a long boat to ship his goods on board the sloop to morrow, and they shall sail whenever he informs me he has received your instructions.

I gave directions to Capt. *Boscawen* yesterday to clear the *Humphry* as soon as possible he could, and if she is of absolute necessity to be on the expedition, a ship may be left to convoy her after us, if she should not be ready so soon. I am,

Kingstn, Jan.  
31, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant;

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to take upon you the command of my sloop *Tender*, and to acquaint Gen. *Wentworth* you have received my orders for obeying and putting in execution such orders and instructions as he shall give you in writing under his hand.

And as soon as you have received your instructions in writing for your conduct from Gen. *Wentworth*, you are to acquaint Capt. *Dennis* you are ready to proceed to sea under his convoy, who will have my orders for putting to sea with you as soon as the wind will permit; and when you are without the keys, he will have sealed orders from me to open, and orders to deliver you, for the better executing what Gen. *Wentworth* desires, which you are carefully and diligently to conform to. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in Port Royal harbour, *Jamaica*, this 31st of *January* 1741.

*E. Vernon.*

To Lieut. *Lowther* of his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, appointed to command his Majesty's sloop tender the *Triton*.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to keep his Majesty's ship the *Experiment*, under your command, in  
a con-

a continued readines for putting to sea whenever Lieut. *Lowther* of the *Boyne*, whom I have appointed to command the *Triton* sloop tender on the present service, shall acquaint you he has received General *Wentworth's* instructions in writing for his government. And you are then to put to sea with the said *Triton* sloop under your convoy, as soon after as the wind and weather will permit you.

And as soon as you are got fairly to sea without the keys of *Port Royal*, and all shore boats dispatch'd from you, you are then to open your sealed orders you will have from me, which you will come for, as soon as Lieut. *Lowther* brings you such advice, and to govern yourself carefully and diligently in the due execution of them. For, &c. Given under my hand at *Port Royal, Jamaica*, the 2d of *February* 1741.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Dennis* of the *Experiment*.

By, &c.

WHereas the principal intention of sending Lieut. *Lowther* over to the coast of *Porto-Bello*, in the *Triton* sloop tender, is at Gen. *Wentworth's* request, for his procuring such intelligence as he has instructions from him for, for the better securing the success of an intended expedition.

You are hereby required and directed to make the best of your way, with the said sloop, for getting off the *Bastimentos*, or any other adjacent parts, that the said Lieut. *Lowther* shall judge most expedient, for his procuring his intelligence from; and as he is an experienced pilot himself, you will consult with him on the courses you are to steer, for the more early arriving off such part of the coast as he desires; when you are to see him safe in there accordingly. And as he and you shall judge it adviseable, you may spare him a small detachment of your soldiers or seamen, for the better executing the services he has to perform, though probably as he goes under the pretence of a trader, the thirteen men (besides himself) he has on board, may be sufficient, if other traders are there likewise.

And whilst he is in at the *Bastimentos*, or elsewhere, you will keep the sea, for cutting off all communication between *Carthage* and *Porto-Bello*, and collecting the best advices you can from such prizes as you shall make in your said cruise.

And



And you are to settle a particular correspondence with Lieut. *Lowther*, when from time to time, you may call off where he is for knowing if he has succeeded in the execution of what Gen. *Wentworth* has sent him upon, and on his having done so, you will receive Lieut. *Lowther*, and the guides he has procured, on board his Majesty's ship *Experiment*, victualling them as your ship's company during the time they shall continue there. And he must put into writing all the particular intelligences he has procured, agreeable to the instructions given him by General *Wentworth*; as you will all those you have procured on your cruize; and then to dispatch the said sloop away for *Jamaica*, with the said intelligences for Gen. *Wentworth* and Me, in case they might arrive here before we sail, which as I judge to be very improbable, you will take care, on consulting with Lieut. *Lowther*, to keep cruising in such stations, as we may be sure of not missing of you, with Lieut. *Lowther*, and the guides, as that might be of the most fatal consequence to his Majesty's service.

But if from fresh intelligences we should come to alter our present designs, you may be sure I will send a cruiser to look out for you, and bring you farther orders where you may come to join me: as in all events we shall want Lieut. *Lowther*, on whose experience and knowledge of these parts I have great dependance; so you must be sure not to cruize out of the way of my finding you, or any cruisers with my orders, as you will answer the contrary at your utmost peril, where so much depends upon it.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards*, ships, persons, or effects, whenever you shall find the same on the seas; as you will, all ships or vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies, the *Spaniards*, with contraband stores, for their being farther proceeded against according to law.

And upon perusing these your said orders and instructions, you will settle your correspondence, and give your necessary orders to Lieut. *Lowther*, for the due execution of them. For, &c. Given under my hand at *Port Royal, Jamaica*, the 2d *February* 1741.

E. Vernon.

To Capt. *Dennis* of the *Experiment*.

D

SIR,



S I R,

I Received your's of the 1st inst. before my quitting my quarters at *Kingston*; and excused my answering it till to day, as I knew I should be fuller informed for doing it from hence.

I send you inclosed a copy of an order from Mr. *Wallace*, of the 2d of *November*, for discharging the *Humphry* transport from the service, so that you will see she was not then judged proper to be continued longer in the service. And to us of the sea it cannot but seem matter of surprize, why any other good transport not yet discharged might not be as proper for that service, as well as her. However, I have given my orders to Capt. *Boscawen*, for having the said transport cleared of all his stores and provisions as soon as possibly he can, which he thinks may be ten days first, but I hope it will be in eight, and cannot see why her sailing with the first of us need to be absolutely necessary.

I am come here to spend a day or two in giving all necessary orders, for the dispatch of every thing in these parts, and shall take up my quarters for good on board the *Boyne* on *Thursday* night; which ship, and most of the others, will be fit for the sea by that time. But to avoid that fatal enemy, *Delay*, I propose going to sea myself, with such ships as I have in readiness, whenever you will inform me you are ready to put to sea with the transports, whom, I presume, you have ordered to complete for sailing, with four months provisions at least, and if they could carry six months, it would be the better to be prepared against all events; and then I propose leaving Sir *Chaloner Ogle* with such men of war as may not be ready to proceed with us, to follow us, who will take care to bring with him this *Humphry* as an hospital ship, if you judge her absolutely necessary for that purpose.

And I send you, inclosed likewise, an account of the numbers of men wanting to complete our small squadron, to put us in condition for service; as the enemy have, even under Admiral *Torrez*, a superior squadron to that of his Majesty's we can carry to sea, besides what may be to be apprehended if any other squadron should come to join him, as has been surmised in the intercepted intelligences; and I am persuaded, you join with me in thinking, that our being masters at sea is of absolute necessity for the security of any expedition, and preservation of our trade and this valuable island to the Crown. The numbers wanting you will see, are, including the *Americans*, above eleven hundred,

dred, and if you judge proper to change them, then the whole will be upwards of fourteen hundred men.

As I shall be on board on Thursday night, I shall be in the way of giving the necessary orders, for their being received on board the respective ships any day, or time, you shall judge necessary.

And as to the general council of war, I shall be ready to make the signal for it's being held on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, on Saturday, or any subsequent day that you desire, and cannot but think that final resolution taken as near as you can, to the time for their being put in execution, to be a very effectual means, for securing the success of them. But if you think, out of regard to his excellency Mr. *Trelawney*, who is generally indisposed upon the salt water, it would be a good natured compliment to him to meet at his house at *Spanish Town*; I am very ready to agree to that; and if you will settle with him the Day for our meeting there, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I will come up to meet you there.

Capt. *Dennis* has his orders for sailing whenever Lieut. *Lowther* acquaints him he has received your instructions in writing, and he will have my additional orders for his directions delivered him sealed, to open when he is without the *Keys*. I am,

Port Royal, Jamaica, S I R,  
Feb. 23, 1741. your most obedient humble servant,  
E. Vernon.

P. S. I send you likewise a list of the *American* officers and men, on board the *Kent* and *Montague*, which with what I have sent you before, complete the whole.

Capt. *Dennison*, of the *Augusta*, has my orders, as you desire, for receiving Capt. *Burton* with your dispatches.  
E. Vernon.

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,  
YOUR favour of the 4th inst. came to my hands yesterday evening, just as I was going to leave *Port Royal*, for coming on board the *Boyne*.

And that all may be regularly conducted without any mistakes, as you desire, I send this by Capt. *Watson*, my Captain, for regulating with any one you may appoint, the day, time, and place, you would have the officers and soldiers of the *American* regiment, now on board our ships, returned to their corps, who can all be sent up in the cool of the morning appointed for it; and the same boats can

very conveniently then repair to whatever place you appoint for embarking the officers and foldiers of the old regiments designed for the fleet, who can come down with the sea breeze; and if they are to be victualled with us that day, then care may be taken, they be not victualled from the transports that day. But I reckon the embarking the *Americans* must be deferred to a future day, which shall be agreeable to whatever day you desire.

And as you have undertaken to settle with Governor *Trelawney*, the day and place that may be most commodious for him, I am very ready to pay him that compliment, and whenever you advise me where it is, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I will give his Excellency a meeting with you there, and Mr. *Guise*; and shall be glad it may be on Monday, as I know I can be ready for proceeding on my part at any time that you shall desire.

*Ecyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, Feb. 5th, 1741.*

I am, S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

YOURS of the 9th was brought me last night, in which you desire my opinion, what may be properest to be done from time to time, for the discharging of transports and easing the great burthen, to the Crown, on that head, as the commanding officer of the forces, in port, shall find to be necessary in your absence, and on account of the necessity for Mr. *Wallace* attending your orders.

This is what he came to ask my opinion upon before, and I then told him, the regular method was, in my apprehension, for him to make an agreement, with a proper deputy, that knew how to carefully execute it on as reasonable terms as he could for the Crown; and to leave him a copy of his instructions for his government in it, and acting under the orders of the commanding officer of the forces in port, by orders and appointments from you, and that I should leave directions to the commanding officer of the ships in port for directing the Captains commanding all convoys homeward bound, to take particular care of all transport ships that should be desirous of putting themselves under convoy.

Publick notice has long since been given of the *Bristol* being to sail, as one of the convoys, and such discharged transports as neglect taking a convoy, when it is thus tendered them, forfeit the benefit of their charter party in that respect, in  
my

my apprehension; but if you would have the *Bristol* delayed for a few days, that shall be as you desire, but the *Augusta* will fail as our advice boat on *Friday*, or *Saturday* morning at farthest, so pray send your letters thither in time.

The letter, you mention to have wrote to me of the 5th instant, came to my hands by a negroe boy; but finding you had misunderstood the sense of the Commissioners of the victualling, in the letter I sent to you, that I had from them; to shew what it was they expected from their agents, in the regular expence of the provisions they sent out, and in which they blamed their agents for their former issues to your Commissary, without regular demands being made for them, and order being given them by me, for their issuing them out accordingly; and sending this letter to you, Sir, was to shew you the method they desired might be pursued, for regularly charging all the provisions they should issue by proper orders.

But in yours you seem to imagine the wine mentioned to be sent out, was for the use of the sick, and therefore desire a quantity might be ordered for your sick soldiers.

Whereas it is very certain, not a drop of their wine was sent out for such services; for the wine furnished to our sick seamen, is under a contract, from the sick and wounded office with Mr. *Tickell*, who furnishes them with wine, as well as all other necessaries they want.

And if you had chosen the example they had set, to have followed, your sick soldiers would have been furnished with wine in the same manner by the director of your hospital, or whomever you had contracted with, to have managed that branch, and there are many, not the least judicious in this island, that think, if you had accepted Mr. *Charlton's* house for a general hospital, and put them under the management of such a contract, upon your first arrival from *Cuba*, that you would have saved the lives of many hundreds of your soldiers, that have died between that time and this.

As I knew I was to see you at a council of war on the 8th instant, I had omitted answering that letter concluding, on that occasion, you would have mentioned it, and given me an occasion to set you right in it; and as you said nothing, I concluded, you had observed your mistake, and so thought it best to let it drop in silence.

To prevent the wine ships lying at charges upon the Crown, for demurrage, it was necessary to clear them as soon as possible, as our agents had no warehouse-room for it;



it; and above a third of your forces in condition for service, are now victualled with it, on board of our ships.

And let me desire the favour of you, when you have had a computation made, what men you have to go out on service, and for what time they have provisions on board for that number, that you will then give orders to your Commissary to apply to me for an order on our agents to deliver him a proportion of provisions of all species, for such a number of men, such a certain time, as you shall think necessary; when I shall give him an order upon our agents to deliver it to him accordingly; which I take to be the regular method the Commissioners desire should be pursued in their said letter.

Capt. *Boscawen* acquaints me, the *Humphry* transport will be entirely cleared of his stores by Saturday night, and of consequence ready for observing all directions you design to give about her. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, Feb. 10, 1741.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

WHEREAS there is advice from a *Dutch* trader of some vessels being bound from the coast of *Carraccas*, laden with arms and ammunition for *Carthagera*, which are said to be going under convoy of some privateer sloops from *St. Domingo*.

You are hereby required and directed immediately on your being clear of the keys (when you are to open these orders) to stretch over directly for the main continent, keeping your wind for falling in as far to windward as you can, and after having made the land plain, you will then proceed to take your station off *Point Canoa*, or where you judge properest to windward of *Carthagera*, in regard to wind and weather, for intercepting any thing getting into *Carthagera* from to windward, and for keeping them under the alarm they are at present said to be in, of our being coming to renew our attacks upon that place.

And you will continue cruizing on that station for the space of forty days, or your sooner receiving any other orders from me by the *St. Albans*, or any other ship I may send on that service.

And as there have been reports of squadrons coming into these seas, on the discovery of any such, either of *Spaniards*, or any other nation, you are immediately to make

make the best of your way for informing me of it, as being of the greatest importance for his Majesty's service; or on your being much weakened, by taking any considerable prize or prizes, you may, in such case, stretch over with them, for seeing them secure into this port.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects, of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons or effects, wherever you shall meet the same on the seas, as you will all ships and vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies, the *Spaniards*, with contraband stores, for their being further proceeded against according to law. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica, Feb. 10, 1741.*

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Laws* of the *Greenwich*.

Sealed and indorsed,

Sealed orders for Capt. *Laws*, not to be opened till he gets without *Port Royal* keys, and has dispatched away all shore boats, with which he is directed to proceed to sea with all possible expedition.

My Lord Duke,

MY last letters to your Grace were of the 1st of *Dec.* from *Cumberland Harbour*, and of the 10th of the same month from off *Cape Tiberoon*, which are gone home by the unsheathed seventy gun ships, with Capt. *Davers*; or the two of sixty guns with Capt. *Knowles*, and the duplicate of my last of the 10th of *December* accompanies this.

After leaving the hospital ship to cruize off *Cape Dona Maria*, for putting my letters on board the homeward-bound unsheathed ships in their way, and leaving the *York* to water in *Tiberoon* bay, I made sail to windward, and cruized for some time off *Jaquimel*, keeping well to the southward, so as to lye in the way both of our own ships, and of any bound to *Port Louis*, and had the *Chester* cruizing to windward of me off *Cape Alta Vela*, so that nothing could well pass me, and we spoke with all we saw, but without meeting any material intelligence; and having cruized about eight or ten leagues to the southward

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of *Jaquimel*, till the 28th of *December*, I thought proper to bear away for my general rendezvous off *Cape Tiberoon*, for being in the way to meet advices from *Jamaica*, and collecting my ships together there, that had been detached on separate services, and ordered the *Worcester* in our way to look into *Port Louis*, to see what ships were there. And I send your Grace inclosed, a copy of Capt. *Cleland's* report, and also of Capt. *Stevens's* report, whom I sent with the letter to the Marquis de *Larnage*, and to observe what they were doing at *Leogane* and *Petit Guave*, by which you will see our convoy were in no danger from any thing in those ports, but God knows what force they may have had at *Martinique*.

On Friday, the 1st of *Jan*. I was joined by the *Swift* sloop, with the favour of your Grace's letters of the 15th and 31st of *October*, that gave me a great pleasure to hear our Royal Master was returned in safety to *England*, and finding the convoy, with the transports, might now speedily be expected, and that their convoy was but weak, and as your Grace seemed under an uncertainty, which way the *French* squadrons might be designed, I determined to leave the strongest detachment I could, that were in condition for the sea, to cruize for meeting the said convoy off *Cape Alta Vela*, and accordingly ordered the *Kent*, Capt. *Mitchell*, of seventy guns, with the *Montague*, *Worcester*, and *York*, of sixty guns, and the *Sea-Horse*, of twenty guns, to recruit their water on *Tiberoon* bay with all expedition, and then proceed to cruize for them off *Cape Alta Vela*, till the 10th of *February*, or their sooner meeting with them, when he was to put himself under Capt. *Laws's* orders, as the senior officer, and proceed with him to *Jamaica*; and I detached Capt. *Cusack*, who joined me at the rendezvous, in the *Litchfield*, a clean ship, to take the station between the islands of *Heneago* and *Tortuga*. Having determined on consulting with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, as soon as the necessary orders were dispatched to these ships, we would return to *Jamaica* for holding the general council of war, as your Grace directs.

And on the 4th I was joined by the *Sheerness*, Capt. *Ward*, a clean twenty gun ship, who brought me a joint letter from Mr. *Wentworth*, Mr. *Guise*, and Governor *Trelawney*, desiring our coming down for holding the said general council of war, which I send your Grace inclosed a copy of, without date, as it came to me; and having given orders to Capt. *Ward*, with the *Swift*, Capt. *Blad-*  
well,

well, to go and cruize for a fortnight off *Crooked Island*, for clearing the windward passage of the enemy's privateers, I then directed him, to order Capt. *Bladwell* to the station I found my Lords of the Admiralty had intended him for, pursuant to the orders he had from me, and then to return and join Capt. *Cusack* himself, for their proceeding farther to windward, upon the *North's* breaking away, to cruize to windward of *Port François* and of the *Turk's Islands*, which will, I hope, give the *Spanish* privateers a general rummage.

And I send your Grace inclosed a copy of a letter brought me from *Jamaica*, from the Marquis *de Larnage*, of the 10th of *Dec.* N. S. and copies of my two letters of the 5th of *Jan.* (the day I anchored in this harbour) to Mr. *Wentworth* and Governor *Trelawney*, desiring we might meet to hold the general council of war, and to have with us respectively those under our orders, that might be necessary to be under examination before us, and recommending our having his Majesty's Attorney General, to take minutes of our proceedings and draw up our resolutions, as he is a sworn officer to keep secret the councils of the Crown, and a gentleman of very good abilities for it.

And I must not omit acquainting your Grace, that no one is more capable, in my apprehension, to give his Majesty a clear and distinct account of all proceedings on the *Carthagena* expedition, than Capt. *Knowles*, who is gone home in the *Weymouth*, whom I take to know more of the executive part of the duty of an engineer, than any we had at *Carthagena*, except Capt. *Moore*, who was unfortunately so early killed there; and to publick zeal and good will for his Majesty's service, I think he manifested himself infinitely superior to them all; and therefore I cannot but recommend him to be introduced to his Majesty, as one capable of giving his Majesty all the information he may desire.

Finding, by accounts come out, that several things have been publickly laid to my charge, as negligences in my duty, since the reading over a manuscript account called an impartial one, where I found four points urged against me: As, to conform to what seemed agreeable to your Grace, I have, from the *Carthagena* expedition, dropped all correspondence, but with my Attornies, my wife, and brother, I must beg your Grace will excuse me in giving a short answer to those four points in my letter to your Grace.



I. The first charge is, That my want of intelligence was very glaring.

*Answer.* To the falsity of which, I think I may appeal to your Grace, from the accounts I have sent you; as I think no officer could well have expected to have procured better intelligence than I did.

II. That I had suffered Capt. *Townsend* in the *Shrewsbury* to lay unnecessarily exposed to the enemy's fire, for want of orders.

*Answer.* This Capt. *Townsend* can manifest to be false. Upon his having his cable cut, before he could let go another anchor, he was fallen so far to leeward, that he could not, with security against falling upon the lee shore, have weighed from thence, till the sea breeze was done; and I agreed with him in judgment, it was best to maintain his post till night, as his fire was a means in good measure to keep down the fire of the enemy, which he would have laid more exposed to in moving, besides the danger of falling on the lee shore, and that it was near night.

III. That I did not leave to the respective Captains sent in to batter *Boca Chica* castle, under Commodore *Leffock's* command, the option of chusing their own births, but that I sent other Captains or Officers on board of their ships, to bring them to an anchor, which he supposes was, because they should not come too near.

*Answer.* Nothing can possibly manifest the ignorance, as well as malice of the assertor, as it is certain, the nearer a ship can come to a fortress, she is so much the less exposed to their fire, and her fire can only in such cases be of any effectual service.

And it is well known, neither Captains nor pilots of those ships had ever been in *Carthagera*, or knew any thing of the channel, and that the officers I sent to post them were, Capt. *Rentone*, Capt. *Forrest*, (now Captains in his Majesty's service) and Capt. *Macpherson* (now Purser of the *Cumberland*) all three officers of experience, who had been in *Carthagera*, and were officers both of very good judgment and resolution, and acquitted themselves in it accordingly; and, I think, I may value myself for procuring and securing them to the publick service by promotions in it.

IV. He asserts *Castilio Grande* to have had but twenty four guns mounted, and that the *Spaniards* dismounted the guns, and knocked off the trunnions before they abandoned it.

*Answer.*

*Answer.* Captain *Knowles* can inform your Grace of the falſeneſs of this aſſertion, there being fifty nine guns in that fortrefs, which the *Spaniards* abandoned in confuſion, and had neither diſmounted the guns, nor knocked off the trunnions, but had ſlightly spiked up ſome of them.

And hearing it has been farther induſtriouſly ſpread about that Mr. *Wentworth* was precipitated to the attack of fort *St. Lazar* by ſome warm expreſſions of mine at a council of war, I muſt beg leave to mention to your Grace my ſentiments on that affair, *viz.*

The ſecond day after the attack upon fort *St. Lazar*, I went myſelf to view that fort from the *Popa*, and ſo viſibly there perceived how eaſily they might have ſucceeded in that attempt, in my apprehenſion, as well as how, for want of prudent conduct, and a proper diſpoſition, they had come ſo ill off, I could not forbear, on breakfaſting with Mr. *Wentworth*, to tell him, they had, in my opinion, failed for want of advancing to aſcend the hill, to the right and left, where it was practicable, inſtead of halting at the foot of a ſteep part of the hill they could not aſcend. And, that when they had pitched on the wrong place, and found they could not gain the aſcent there, that their not drawing off the men before the day broke upon them, to leave them fruitleſſly expoſed to all the enemy's fire, was abandoning them a ſacrifice.

He ſaid then the commanding officers had not obeyed his orders, who were directed to carry on the attack to the right and left.

And Mr. *Guiſe* was preſent when I ſaid this to him.

What is certain is, he never carried nor ſent any of the officers that were to lead the attack to the *Popa*, where he might have given them his proper directions, and they have known how to have executed his orders, to the beſt advantage, from their own obſervations: and nothing ſeemed to have been properly diſpoſed, the granado ſhells, wool-packs and ladders, being ſaid to have been in the rear when they began their attack, that ſhould properly have been diſtributed for it.

I afterwards took a view of it to the town ſide, from the hill above the *Jefuit's* potworks, on *Terra Bomba*, and I think I ſaw plainly how all thoſe intrenchments, without fort *St. Lazar*, might eaſily have been carried by aſſault, under a proper diſpoſition made for it, and that, though no ſoldier, I could have formed ſuch a diſpoſition; and had they lodged themſelves that night in the enemy's

entrenchments, they would have been under cover from all fire from the town, and those in the fort could not have dared to expose themselves over the walls to fire upon them, so they would have had a short and easy sap in a clay-hill, to have mined under a corner of the fort, and made a breach, if the enemy would have stayed, to have given them that trouble, which I do not believe they would have done.

Had I been consulted upon the attack, I should have advised a proper disposition being made for it, and should have been ready to have given assistance in it.

On the 8th of *January* we met at the general council of war, at Governor *Trelawney's* in *Spanish Town*, and neither Mr. *Wentworth* nor Mr. *Trelawney* approving of what I had proposed, of requesting Mr. *Attorney General* to be our Secretary on this occasion, Mr. *Trelawney* offered himself to undertake it, and Mr. *Wentworth* offered him his assistance in it, which the rest of us thanked them for.

And I send your Grace inclosed copies of our proceedings from the copies I took from their minutes of the 8th and 9th at *Spanish Town*, but being obliged to adjourn, on account of Mr. *Guise* being taken ill on the 9th, Mr. *Trelawney* undertook to draw the proceedings up fair against our next meeting, on Mr. *Guise* being well enough to attend.

On *Friday* the 15th arrived here the convoy with the transports under the command of Capt. *Laws*, and I send your Grace inclosed copies of my letters of the 17th to Gen. *Wentworth* and Governor *Trelawney*, desiring our speedy reassembling. And we met accordingly on the 19th at Mr. *Dicker's*, when I laid before them all, the intelligence come to my hands, since our last meeting, particularly those from the intercepted letters brought in by Capt. *Knight* of the *St. Albans*; copies of the most material of which come inclosed to your Grace, as likewise of a letter from Capt. *Laws* of the 15th, and you will observe the extracts are in the minutes of our proceedings, and the opinions of some of us given upon two questions; I moved for the council's deliberation, signed by such of us as approved of, which were executed at our next meeting at Mr. *Wentworth's* house on the 20th.

On the 21st the council of war of General Officers having given an opinion in regard to what was recommended to them, that is inserted, with my answer to it.

And a subsequent meeting being had at Mr. *Wentworth's* request at my house, on the 22d I drew up those minutes, and

and your Grace will find four of us concurring in opinion, upon the questions moved on them, chiefly on the suggestion of Mr. *Guise*.

But as Mr. *Wentworth* gave no particular opinion in writing then, your Grace will undoubtedly find it in his return, of our proceedings with any particulars I may have omitted, as that of being Secretary was what I declined from the beginning, when I very fairly told them, I was come determined to concur in any plan Mr. *Wentworth* should of himself judge most practicable, that no objection might arise to it, from being of my recommendation; and that I should to the best of my abilities support the execution of any scheme Mr. *Wentworth* approved of, as he must be supposed the best judge of what they could execute by land.

I have found since Lieut. *Lowther's* scheme was delivered to Governor *Trelawney*, at his Excellency's solicitation and direction, on the 17th of *December*, so that he and Mr. *Wentworth* had a long time to consider of it, together with Mr. *Guise*, before our coming in from the sea on the 5th of *January*, and our meeting on the 8th. And I was pleased to hear of any scheme of their own fixing upon, and I send your Grace a copy of Lieut. *Lowther's* scheme inclosed.

And as by our resolutions of the 8th, they had determined against the eldest General Officer having a casting vote, I could easily conceive every thing must be as they pleased, and therefore thought it for his Majesty's service to leave the choosing of the expedition to Mr. *Wentworth's* judgment, who has now been long in the country, and has had all the intelligence I could procure, as well as what he has collected himself.

And as I lament my situation, and have determined to limit my applications of favour from the Crown, to the single one of having the conduct of the aforementioned expeditions strictly and publickly enquired into; and know, his Majesty has an experienced officer here in Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, I must request the favour of your Grace, that I may be ordered home, to undergo the strictest examination into my conduct, as I value the preservation of my own character, I thank God, before any worldly honours whatever, and had rather (according to the opinion of the facetious *Sancho*) go to heaven plain *Ned*, than dispose of myself the other way for any consideration: and your Grace may be assured, till such orders arrive, no one shall forward



ward every service for the honour of our Royal Master, and the due execution of his orders with more care and diligence than I will, but under the daily prayers for a deliverance from being conjoined to a Gentleman, whose opinions I have long experienced to be more changeable than the moon. But have endeavoured, agreeable to his Majesty's orders, to maintain the most civil correspondence with Mr. *Wentworth* in my power.

I send your Grace inclosed a copy of a letter from the Marquis *de Larnage* of the 19th of *Jan.* N. S. brought me hither by Capt. *Olivier*, whose principal business I am persuaded was to be a spy upon our proceedings at this juncture, having had his visits on the like occasion before; and we must watch occasions to repay them in the same kind, as well as we can, and I now send your Grace inclosed a copy of my letter to the Marquis *de Larnage* of the 27th of *January*, our stile, to guard against their having any just occasion of complaint.

Ever since our return from *Carthage*, all the conveniencies we have, and the additional ones I could contrive, have all been in a manner wholly employed to careen and refit the unsheathed ships, and enable them to swim home upon a bottom of tallow, which should be a memento never to send unsheathed ships to those seas any more: and having found the expedient of a well tallowed bottom will do for the present, I hope the last of the eleven will be on her way from hence by the 1st of *March*, for till they are gone, we can do little for the remaining sheathed ships. But I have made shift to get the *Strafford* a clean ship to proceed to the station between the *Grand Camanes* and *Cape Corientes*; and have got the *Tilbury* out to sea for the station of *Rio la Hacha*, so that I am watching their motion every way.

I am patching up for the sea as many ships as I can to proceed under our two flags, on our next expedition, but shall not be able to exceed ten ships of the line at most, and am got ready with my own ship, with which, and what are ready to proceed with me, I am determined to sail whenever the General says he is ready, though I leave Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to bring the remainder of our force after me, but I hope to have all ready as soon as they shall be ready to proceed. But as to detaining the unsheathed ships on certain advices of any new squadrons of the enemies arriving here, upon advising with the builder and all our sea officers, they are unanimously of opinion, they must

muſt not be detained here on any conſideration, as it would be their inevitable ruin, as they ſwim home now only on tallow.

I find Capt. *Laws* paſſed in the night time with his convoy between my cruizers and the ſhore, but falling in with an hoſpital ſhip that was ſome days behind them, they having the news of the convoy being paſt them, Capt. *Mitchell* judged, for expedition ſake, it would be beſt for them to put in to wood and water in *Tiberoon* bay before their return, and he came in with his ſhips, and the ſaid hoſpital ſhip the 29th of *January*, the *York* (one of them) having ſprung her foremaſt.

I muſt beg leave to trouble your Grace with an incloſed copy of a letter from Mr. *Wentworth* to me of the 1ſt of *February*, and of my answer to him of the 2d, in conſequence of which he has deſired the general council of war to be held on Monday the 8th. And as the ſoldiers to be embarked on board the men of war, will (the laſt of them) be on board our ſhips by that day, I can put to ſea with the greater part of our ſhips the day after our council, or whenever Mr. *Wentworth* is ready for entring upon the execution of what may be determined upon in our ſaid meeting.

On the 4th the *Experiment*, Capt. *Dennis*, ſailed with Lieut. *Lowther* in one of my ſloop Tenders, under the orders I ſend your Grace incloſed a copy of, for Lieut. *Lowther's* putting in execution, the inſtructions he had from Mr. *Wentworth*, having made Lieut. *Lowther* a fifth Lieutenant, in the *Boyne*, for his being at leiſure to attend any ſervices Mr. *Wentworth* might deſire.

And I propoſe concluding my letter, with ſending your Grace incloſed a copy of the reſolutions of our council of war, to be held on Monday the 8th of *February*, as I hope the *Auguſta* may be ready to ſail with my letters to your Grace by the 12th.

On the 8th the general council of war was held at the *South-Sea* houſe, in *Kingſton*, where Mr. *Guiſe* being taken ill before we entered upon buſineſs, Mr. *Blakeney* was ſent for, to ſupply his abſence, and your Grace has incloſed a copy of our reſolutions, which I ſerved as Secretary for drawing up.

And I am haſtening to ſea the *Greenwich* and *St. Albans* for cruizing, one to windward, and the other to leeward of *Carthagera*, for cutting them off from all communication by ſea, and keeping them under their preſent apprehenſions  
of

of our being coming to attack them there, which I mentioned to the council of war, I thought of doing, and they all approved of it as a prudent measure.

I can now assure your Grace that not a moment's delay can possibly lay at my door, having all preparations on my part in such forwardness as I can answer for; but the most ships of the line I can depend upon, for keeping in a body, on an enemy coming suddenly upon us, will be eight sail; the two of eighty guns our flags are flying on board of, two of seventy, and four of sixty, and such of our cruizers as may discover them first, to bring us advice of them.

By a letter sent me by a flag of truce from the Governor of *St. Jago de Cuba*, which your Grace has, inclosed, a copy of, 'tis probable, Don *Rodrigo de Torrez* was not then sailed from the *Havanna*.

I have not, by this occasion, leisure to add any more, but to assure your Grace, that I shall with pleasure discharge my duty to the best of my judgment, with a sincere zeal and affection for our royal Master's service in every instance that shall offer itself; for if they come between us and our port, with a superior force, we have no way but to fight our way back as well as we can. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal  
Harbour, Jamaica,  
Feb. 11th, 1741.*

My Lord Duke,

your Grace's most devoted

and obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**W** Hereas the packets you are charged with for his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, his Majesty's principal Secretary of state, are of importance to his Majesty's service,

You are hereby required and directed to put to sea with the first opportunity of wind, and to make the best of your way for *England*, making *Spithead* the first port of your arrival, if the wind favour you for it, where immediately on your arrival, you are to set out post yourself, for delivering your packets of letters to his Grace yourself, that you may be at hand to give his Grace what further information he may have occasion to enquire after; and as Mr. *Wentworth* sends his letters to his Grace by an officer of his own, you will take care that neither that officer, nor any officer of your own, be permitted to carry or send any private letters ashore, till two days after your being set out post, to prevent any private accounts from appearing in publick before his Majesty has had our publick letters laid before him by his Grace.

And

And when you have delivered my letters to his Grace, and he has discharged your further attendance at that time, you will then proceed to deliver my letters to the Right Hon. Sir *Charles Wager*, and then those directed to the Secretary of the admiralty, writing in to the board for their Lordships orders for your further proceedings, and will take care to forward those safely to hand that are directed for all the publick offices.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons, or effects, wherever you shall find the same on the seas.

But in regard to the importance of the dispatches, you are charged with, you are not to occasion unnecessary delays, by chafing out of your way. For which this shall be your warrant. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica*, this 11th of *February 1741*.

To Capt. *Dennison* of the *Augusta*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received your Excellency's letter of the 12th inst. and shall appoint the *Kent*, Capt. *Mitchell*, to receive your Excellency and your retinue, at any time you shall desire it.

And if doctor *Beckford* designs accompanying us, he shall be very welcome to such accommodations as I can make for him on board the *Boyne*. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal  
Harbour, Jamaica,  
Feb. 13th, 1741.*

S I R,

your Excellency's most  
obedient humble servant.

His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

W Hereas there is advice from a *Dutch* trader, of some vessels being bound from the coast of *Carracca*, laden with arms and ammunition for *Carthagera*, which are said to be going under Convoy of some *Spanish* privateer sloops from *St. Domingo*; and there being likewise advice of two *Spanish* ships coming from *Porto Bello*;

F

Capt.



Capt. *Laws* having already my orders, for cruizing to windward off *Carthagera*, for the intercepting any ships or vessels getting into *Carthagera* that way ; as your cruizing to leeward of it will put you in the way, both of intercepting any ships or vessels coming from *Porto Bello*, or likewise straitning them of provisions, and keeping them under the alarm, they are at present said to be in, of our being coming to renew our attacks upon that place :

You are hereby required and directed, immediately on your being clear of the keys of *Port Royal* (when you are to open these orders) to stretch over directly for the main continent, keeping your wind for falling in as far to windward as you can, for your speaking with Capt. *Laws*, and communicating to him these your orders, for your cruizing to leeward of *Carthagera*, as he is to windward, for the reasons abovementioned, and concerting how to join on any intelligence you may receive, making it necessary ; and to acquaint him it is my advice to you both, you should agree to share in prizes taking in the cruize, for carrying on the service with greater harmony.

And as having the aid of some since hulks may be of service to us, in our projected expedition, you will when you judge most proper for it, endeavour to intercept some of them, and keep two of the best for such future services ; leaving you a latitude in the chusing your station, as shall from the intelligence you meet with be most likely for your intercepting the trade of the enemy, and cutting off all correspondence with *Carthagera* ; and probably from some trading sloops at the *Baru* you may learn some material intelligence, for your better government, in the execution of these my orders for cruizing to leeward of *Carthagera*, for blocking them up that way, and intercepting their trade.

And you will continue cruizing for the services abovementioned for the space of forty days, or your sooner receiving any other orders from me, by any of my cruisers, I may send on that service.

And on intelligence that may make your joining Capt. *Laws* necessary, you are carefully to endeavour it.

And as there have been reports of squadrons coming into these seas, on the discovery of any such, either of *Spaniards* or any other nation, you are immediately to make the best of your way for informing me of it, as being of the greatest importance for his Majesty's service.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And

And as to the daring and unauthorised attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons, or effects, wherever you shall find the same on the seas, as you will all ships and vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies, the *Spaniards*, with contraband stores, for their being farther proceeded against according to law. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica*, the 13th of Feb. 1741.

To Capt. *Knight*, of the *St. Albans*.

*E. Vernon.*

Sealed and indorsed.

Sealed orders for Capt. *Knight* of the *St. Albans*, not to be opened till he gets without the keys, and has dispatched away all shore boats with which he is directed to proceed to sea with all possible expedition.

By, &c.

Whereas you have here annexed to your orders, a copy of the instructions given to Lieut. *Robert Hodgson*, as they were communicated to me, and attested to be a true copy of them, as he had received them from Gen. *Wentworth* and Gov. *Trelawney*.

You are hereby required and directed, carefully to give your best aid and assistance, in the due execution of them, by proceeding directly for the *Musquetto* shore, with the *Margaret* transport under your convoy, with Lieut. *Hodgson*, and on your arrival there you will concert with him the time when he judges you may be ready to proceed to the place said to be mentioned in his order, N<sup>o</sup> 2, that he is directed to open on his arrival there.

And if you find it may be some time before he can be ready, and there be any trade of the enemies, that you judge you can intercept or destroy in that neighbourhood, without the least hazard of your not being ready to attend Lieut. *Hodgson*, to proceed to the place appointed; you may then endeavour at performing such service.

But if they can soon be ready, you are by no means to think of it, but to take on board his Majesty's sloop *Bonetta*, Lieut. *Hodgson*, and the forty or fifty *Indians*, as desired, and proceed with them with all possible expedition, to the place that shall be mentioned in the said order, N<sup>o</sup> 2; victualling them as you do your sloop's company, during the time they shall continue on board.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons, or effects, wherever you shall find the same on the seas, as you will all ships and vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, with contraband stores, for their being further proceeded against according to law. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal Harbour*, *Jamaica*, 13th of *Feb.* 1741.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Lea*, of the *Bonetta* sloop.

Sealed and endorsed.

Sealed orders not to be opened till he shall be got without the keys, and have dispatched away all shore boats.

To Mr. *Hodgson*.

YOU are to repair forthwith on board the *Margaret* transport, to sail for the *Musquetto* shore, under convoy of the man of war that Admiral *Vernon* shall appoint for that purpose.

At your arrival there, you are to open the orders, N<sup>o</sup> 2, and to deliver Mr. *Pitts* his commission, and to require his assistance in getting as many *Musquetto* men as you can, ready to come away with you immediately, to a place you will find mentioned in the order. Though the more you get the better, yet you have my leave to come away in the men of war, as soon as you have got forty or fifty, if you find a difficulty in getting more in a reasonable time.

The arms, powder, ball, and goods, are left to the disposal and direction of you and Mr. *Pitts*, in whose custody you are to leave the whole, or part, as you see occasion when you come away; only requiring from him, as the council does from you, an account of the quantities given, and reasons for what you give away.

The purpose, for which they are to be chiefly given is, to engage as many of the *Musquetto* men as you or he can possibly get together, to join the fifty or sixty that may happen to come along with you, at the same place mentioned in the order; as likewise to engage the affections of the *Indians* in general for the future.

You are likewise empowered to hire as many white men and their negroes as you can agree with, and their periaugau's, and to leave as many handycrafts men, of your detachment with Mr. *Pitts*, as he shall think necessary for the purpose.

You are likewise to leave the transport under his direction, and require him to repair as soon as he is ready, with the white men, the *Musquetto* men, and the negroes under his command, with all convenient speed to the general rendezvous.

You are empowered also, to distribute the gun-powder seized by you on the shore, belonging to Capt. *Hayes*, among the *Musquetto* men, and to confiscate the goods of foreigners, and to seize all contraband goods, as powder, arms, &c. that are going to be carried to the enemy.

*Feb. 12th, 1741-2.*

*Tho. Wentworth.*

*Edw. Trelawney.*

S I R,

THE above is a copy of the orders given to me, by Gov. *Trelawney*, and Gen. *Wentworth*. The Governor ordered me to shew them to you, and to get ready as soon as possible; I shall be so to morrow, and humbly request a convoy to sail the next day, or when you think proper, if it can be spared. I am, Sir,

*Boyne, Feb. 12th.*

*1741-2.*

your obliged and

most obedient servant,

Vice Admiral *Vernon*, a copy.

*Robert Hodgson.*

S I R,

I Have this afternoon received your letter of this day's date, at Mr. *Tickell's*, where I came on a visit to Mr. *Guise*, being to lie at *Port Royal* to night.

The island sloop is under the orders, the gentlemen of the island pay the hire of her for the protection of their trade, and will sail to morrow morning. But as I have bomb-ketches and their tenders I have no intention of taking to sea with me, one, or the other shall be ready for the service you desire, at any time you desire it.

*Halfway-tree, Feb.*

*15th, 1741.*

I am, S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received yours this morning by Capt. *Wilmot*, and as he informs me the detachment you are sending for  
*Port*



*Port Antonio* is of about fifty men, the *Thunder Bombketch* can be very well ready to sail with them to morrow morning, or whenever you desire, and shall send the detachment on board for that purpose; for as she is lying here so much onwards of her way, it would be a great loss of time for her to go to *Kingston*, and the Captain shall have orders to victual the detachments both ways.

I have ordered half a score of the irons to be made, part of which are done already, which I think a little clumsy; but having a forge on board, and blacksmiths too, as I shall carry iron, we can soon make more if this pattern be approved of.

The most dangerous enemy is delay, and am glad I can acquaint you I am ready to proceed with you on any day you desire, and can leave some of our men of war behind, to bring after us whatever may not be ready to proceed with us, which I think might be the best method of proceeding. I am,

*Port Royal, Jamaica,*  
*Feb. 16, 1741.*

S I R,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*. your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I RECEIVED yours of this day this evening, and Capt. *Burnaby* of the *Thunder bombketch* will be at your quarters with this letter to morrow morning; and as the detachment is of fifty men only, he will endeavour to stow the two months provisions you send with them, whenever it comes to him.

He was ready to have sailed this morning if your detachment had come on board as was expected, and will sail as soon after their arrival as possible.

Whatever orders Mr. *Cathcart* may have received from me, he will undoubtedly have to produce, for I cannot charge my memory with all orders I may have thought proper to give, as emergencies made them appear to me to be necessary. I am,

*Port Royal, Feb.*  
*17, 1741.*

S I R,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*. Your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I RECEIVED this day about noon a letter from you, dated the 19th instant, and said to have inclosed a paper given to you by Mr. *Wallace*, the letter was brought by

by a cockswain of the *Grafton's* boat ; but though the letter came sealed, there was no paper inclosed therein of any kind.

I had many masters of transports on board the *Boyne* last night, to complain to me of one of the masters being barbarously murdered by a drunken ensign the night before, and that if they were not protected from the frequent insults of your officers, who treated their men like slaves, their men in general threatned to leave them.

The Coroner's inquest can inform you of the fact, which well deserves your consideration ; and if the transports boats are perpetually harassed in attending upon the officers, I cannot see how they can be at leisure to carry on the publick service they were hired for ; had your officers had general orders to have been on board their transports before the watch was set, this murder would probably not have been committed by a drunken ensign coming off at ten at night. I told the masters it was not within my jurisdiction, and that for preventing the like for the future they must apply to you, and for justice to the civil Magistrate.

If your officers cruel usage to masters of transports and their men be the occasion of their men deserting them, bringing them under better discipline, I apprehend may prevent that ; and if you otherwise want sailors, on your procuring a warrant from the Governor for taking up straggling seamen, that prudently executed in *Kingston* might furnish you a supply in case of necessity ; for you well know, from our many representations at councils of war, the distressed condition of his Majesty's ships for want of seamen.

And as Capt. *Boscawen* acquaints me, he shall be ready to sail for *England* on Thursday next, you will be pleased to get your letters prepared to go by him. I am,

*Boyne*, in Port Royal harbour,  
*Jamaica*, Feb. 20, 1741

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

AS I hope you are near ready for sailing, as I have informed you I have been long since, give me leave to remind you, Sir, that at our councils I mentioned my intentions of leaving our bombketches and their tenders behind, as of no use in the projected services ; and I have accordingly

ingly posted them out of reach of surprize, and for the defence of this harbour; and you may remember, that as the train officers and men belonging to them were come out, under the command of Lieut. *Chambers*, with directions to him to receive his orders from me, without any notice taken in his orders and instructions of M—r L—s:

And as you cannot but have remarked what great prejudices and delays have arisen to his Majesty's service, by the continual sottishness of M—r L—s, I gave it you as my opinion, that if you had occasion to desire, that the detachment of the train under his command might be joined to the army in this expedition, I thought it would be most for his Majesty's service, that they should continue under the separate command of Lieut. *Chambers*, which you seemed to approve of.

But as from that time to this I have never had any application from you, whether they should be joined to the army for this expedition, you will give me leave now to remind you of it, that if you do desire them, they may be ordered on board some of the ordnance storeships for their passage, as the vessels they are now in will not go to sea, and in such case I hope you will approve that I should order Lieut. *Chambers* to act immediately under your orders, and not to be liable to the sottish M—r L—s, which I think you will find great advantages in for his Majesty's service, as he seems to be both a sober and diligent officer: this, Sir, I believe you will think requires your speedy resolution in.

Your letter of the 22d did not come so soon to my hands, being obliged to make an excursion, for having a little leisure for writing my Letters for *England*, by Capt. *Boscawen* without interruption.

I fear if your ensign that committed that brutal action be not brought to justice, it may prove the occasion of more desertions, and that their cruel treatment was the occasion of it before.

I must beg leave to remind you of a paragraph of the agent of transports letter to you of the 25th of *January*, where he mentions the seamen detesting to come on board the transports, on account of the ill usage they receive from the forces; which is too apparent a fact, as well as the defect of all discipline while on board them, through which the lives of many of your forces have fallen a sacrifice to rum and sottishness.

On the strictest enquiry after what men had come into the service of his Majesty on board his ships of war, I do not find there are above twenty of them, and not one of them pressed into the service, but all have come to take shelter in his Majesty's ships, from the cruel usage they received on board the transports; and had the King's officers not received them, they would have been lost both to the Crown's service and the transports too, and instead of these twenty seamen, retired into the Crown's service for protection, your agent to the transports well knows, that to the transports and ordnance store-ships, I have myself furnished a supply of above two hundred *Spanish* seamen, and the memorial you sent me, is a complaint of the desertion of three of those *Spanish* seamen that were thus supplied by me.

By the charter party of the transports, they were to furnish eight able seamen for every hundred tuns, and there is no abatement to the Crown for the want of them; and being in port where money can procure them, they should be well enabled to do it, by the advantages they have had by sailing with a number short of their charter party, but if they do not procure men, my last letter points out a method to you, that I think in emergencies you may practise; and by a regular disposition, and a proper warrant, may easily effect, by supplying yourself with sufficient numbers of straggling seamen there; and you know the Justices of Peace, and Constables, have executed such measures for recruiting the army in emergencies.

I am sorry to observe to you, Sir, you seem to have a pleasure in laying obstructions to the service at my door, I have now laid before you how groundless they are in the particular you mentioned; and I promise you, Sir, when proper time comes for it, I will make it appear to whom all the disappointments to his Majesty's service in these parts are principally to be attributed in my apprehension, with much more justice. I am,

Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, Feb. 24, 1741.

S I R,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

your most obedient  
humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 11th instant by the *Augusta*, Capt. *Dennison*, duplicate of which accompanies this by the *Prince Frederick*, Capt. *Boscawen*, whom I thank God, by the help of a well paid tallow bottom,



we have been able to put in a pretty tight condition for swimming home.

And as Capt. *Boscawen* informed me, he should be ready for sailing on the 26th instant, he has his sailing orders from me, as I was in hopes we should have got to sea before him, having in my last acquainted your Grace I was then ready to put to sea, and I have not failed since, to remind Mr. *Wentworth*, that in my apprehension, delay was the most fatal enemy we had to apprehend, which I will be careful shall never lay at my door, being ready to put to sea on any day that he acquaints me he shall be ready, but it was not till the 21st at night that I had the application from the Commissary for my orders, for what provisions he should want to be issued to him, which he had the instant he applied for it, and was glad to find it was only for bread, he having supplied the transports with all other species from his former stores; so the supplying that, cannot take them up much time.

The principal thing I can have to acquaint your Grace with since, is the disposition I have made, and am making of my cruizers, to take all possible care against our being liable to any surprisals, and for being strengthened by my cruizers on their first discovery of any squadron of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, or others.

I have dispatched out (as I mentioned to your Grace, I intended) the *Greenwich* and *St. Albans* for cruizing, one to windward, and the other to leeward off *Carthagena*, for cutting them off from all communications, and keeping them under the alarm of our being coming to visit them. And the *Tilbury* (I had sent to cruize off *Rio la Hacha*) being obliged to leave her station through her proving extremely leaky, and meeting very bad weather, I am detaching the *Lyon* and a clean twenty gun ship to that station, as the principal for intercepting any ships of the enemies; and our having the earliest information from them, of the motions of any of the enemy's squadrons towards us, in which case I expect to be joined by them, and those off *Carthagena*.

The *Litchfield* and *Sheerness* now cruizing to windward off *Port François*, for intercepting the enemy's trade, and scouring their privateers out of that quarter, whose cruize is out the first of next month; Orders are left for them both to refit with all possible expedition, the former to return to the station to windward off *Port François*, and the other to cruize on the South side of *Hispaniola* to windward off *Port Louis*,

*Louis*, by whom I shall have intelligence of any Squadron's coming into these parts. And by the *Pembroke's* prize, Capt. *Watkins*, I sent orders to Capt. *Smith* of the *Eltham* to send me the earliest advices of any Squadron arriving in those parts: so I hope I have taken the most prudent precautions for procuring intelligence, and preventing surprisals.

I send your Grace inclosed a copy of my line of battle, in which I have posted all the absent ships, under orders to join me, as well as the present, that on any sudden emergency, our disposition may be ready formed: of those the *Strafford's* cruize will be out the 15th of *March*, for whom I leave orders to refit, and join me as soon as possible. The *Tilbury*, through her great craziness requires to be careened, and have her defects repaired. The *Tyger*, whose cruize has been long out, I fear has, either by chasing to leeward, or a lee current, been obliged to go through the gulph; and if so, we may hear of her first from the northern colonies.

The *Princess Louisa* and *Chester*, that are condemned for being only fit for a summer's passage home, I leave under orders of getting refitted, to go home convoys to the trade, one the latter end of *April*, and the other probably of *May*.

The *Bristol* sailed from hence the 20th, convoy to the discharged transports, and such other trade as were desirous of her convoy, being chiefly vessels for the northern colonies.

The *Jersey* will soon be ready to sail for *England*, designing she shall take under her care any other discharged transports, that did not get ready for the last convoy. And the *Prince of Orange*, now at the wharf careening, which is the last of the unsheathed ships, has orders to proceed for *England*, as soon as ever she is ready.

As I apprehend the bombketches to be of no use to us, in our present expedition, I have posted them with the narrows, to assist in the defence of that channel; and have drawn such general orders for Capt. *Young*, whom I leave to command in my absence, as I conceive to be most necessary, in case of any enemy coming to attack this harbour, and I leave an unsheathed fireship careening, for an advice-boat on any emergency.

And having just made a shift to patch up all our ships, for present service, we have now drained our store-houses of all necessary cordage for a refitting, so are properly on

our last legs, till a future supply; and the unsheathed ships have so employed us, that I have not yet had the opportunity of careening any one of the sheathed ships, that came out with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, though they are all in great need of it; and your Grace will observe, that I am not like to have in a body more than eight sail of the line, without being joined by my cruizers, which are, I think, so posted, as I may depend on being joined by part of them, on any Squadron of the enemy's moving our way. And my former letters have fully informed your Grace, how weak we are in point of seamen in all our ships, though I have omitted no reasonable means of recruiting them here as well as I could.

I sent your Grace in my last a copy of a letter I received from the Governor of St. *Jago de Cuba*, of the 14th instant, their stile, sent hither by Don *Miguel Perez*, principally, as I conceive, for being a spy upon us, and transmit you now a copy of my answer to it, of the 17th our stile, which I have sent Capt. *Stevens* to sea with, and a power to treat with that Governor on a cartel, which I do not think he has a power to do; my principal view being to procure the release of Capt. *Wyllis*, from whom I am persuaded we should receive material intelligence; for I know, from those prisoners I send him, he can have none, but that the *Prince Frederick* was a very leaky ship. And I hope we shall be at sea before Capt. *Stevens* can reach the harbour of St. *Jago*, and believe his cruising off their port, will be an argument with them, that we are coming that way again.

And must not omit mentioning, that I have dispatched the *Bonetta* to sea, with a transport, under her convoy, for the *Musquetto* shore, to assist in the execution of such orders, as Mr. *Wentworth* had given Lieut. *Hodgson*, who sailed hence on the 14th of this instant *Feb.* so that nothing has been omitted, that has been desired from me, for their procuring the intelligence and assistance they thought they wanted. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, Feb. 25, 1741.*

*P. S.* The *Sheerness* has just sent in a prize, but her people had run her ashore and deserted her.

My Lord Duke,  
your Grace's  
most devoted and  
obedient humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle.*

S I R,

S I R,

M Aking a retreat into the country yesterday, to complete my letters for *England*, the favour of yours of the 24th did not come into my Hands till this morning.

As I am fully satisfied the bombketches can be of no use to us, in our present views, I well know how wrong it would be to charge myself with the hazard of their springing their masts, and proving a great and unnecessary incumbrance to us.

And I send you inclosed a list of the officers and men, of the royal Regiment of artillery, that are on board the bombketches and their tenders, which detachment is sent out under the command of Lieut. *Chambers*, with directions for him to follow my orders; and as I send this letter and list by him, I desire you will be pleased to chuse out such part of them, as you think may be necessary to be joined to the army on this expedition, and to appoint such of the ordnance store-ships you would have Lieut. *Chambers* and the rest of them to embark on board, desiring you would appoint Lieut. *Chambers* not to be embarked in the ship with M. *L—s*, whose sottishness and dilatory proceedings I have seen and heard so much of, that I think it would be most for his Majesty's service, if L. *Chambers* were to command this detachment separate from him under your immediate orders: however my orders to him, when you have chose out the detachment you would have to go, shall be to embark on board the ordnance store-ships you shall appoint for them, and to obey all such orders as he shall receive from you; so you may put him under M. *L—s*'s orders, if you think proper; but as it does not appear to me to be for his Majesty's service so to do, I desire to be excused from giving such Orders myself.

I was glad to hear the ensign had surrendered himself, and taken his trial, and found means to soften his evidence before they appeared in court, and obtained a favourable verdict.

I never heard that pressing was allowed by law, but custom and usage has admitted the exercise of it, in case of necessity; and when Admiral *Hofier* was distressed for men, the then Governor of *Jamaica* took seamen up for his service by his authority in all parts of the island; and your officers and men in and about *Kingston* might easily and successfully support his warrants there, by the hands of a Constable, the proper civil Magistrate.

I will



I will give orders to distribute the officers and soldiers on board the *Tilbury* into the *Rippon* and *York*, who are in present want of their aid, with your approbation; and am in all respects ready to proceed to sea with you when you desire it. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal harbour: S I R,*  
Feb. 26, 1741.

your most obedient

*P. S. Lieut. Chambers being*  
ill, it will be *Lieut. Des-*  
*aguliers* that brings you  
this letter.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Hon. General *Wentworth*,

S I R,

I Have received yours this morning by the hands of Capt. *Wilmot*, and whenever you send me an account into which of the ordnance store-ships you would have the whole detachment of the royal regiment of artillery, that came out under Lieutenant *Chambers*, to be under my orders, embark on board, I will give the necessary orders in it; and to *Lieut. Chambers*, for joining the army, and acting under your orders.

I have already mentioned to you, Sir, what was done by the Governor of *Jamaica*, when Admiral *Hofier* required their assistance; and that the Governor's power and yours are full as well justified in impressing, where his Majesty's service may require it, as mine; and make not the least doubt, but with a Justice's warrant, prudently supported in the execution by a Constable, you might, in the town of *Kingston*, pick up, of straggling seamen, as many as you can desire; though I think the masters of transports ought of themselves to find them, and they that don't shall be protested against.

Another recourse you have in your power, is borrowing men from the several hospital transports you leave behind you, which, by giving additional wages to such seamen, I am persuaded they will be content with; and you may pay for blacks, that they may hire to supply their places.

The soldiers on board the *Tilbury*, as well as those on board the *Rippon* and *York*, I find, by looking over the returns, are all of the *American* regiment; so that the removal of them will be agreeable to what you desire, of not intermixing them with other regiments.

All

All but the *Rippon* and *York* are ready to sail on any day you desire, and both those ships will be ready to follow us this day sevendnight; and I shall order my victuallers to come under their convoy to us, and that they take under their convoy any of your transports, or store-ships, that may not be ready to sail with you; and Capt. *Allen* has my orders to fall down to *Port Royal*, whenever you desire it.

Mr. *Wallace* brought me a verbal message from you in the beginning of the week, about some blocks you desired him to mention to me your wanting, and then I told him, they might go to our store-keeper, and look out any thing we had that they wanted, and on his giving his receipt, or any proper officer, they would have them, and the store-keeper should have my order for their delivery, when I knew what they were. I am,

*Boyre, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, Feb. 27, 1741.*

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

I Have the favour of your Excellency's letter of this day's date, and apprehend, the Negroes employed at the hospital are principally Carpenters and Bricklayers, that belong to the master workmen, contracting for the building, whom, in this country, your Excellency knows, make very high wages for their masters, to five and ten shillings a day; and besides, I have no more power over them, than your Excellency.

Your Excellency knows, it has been always my opinion, that we ought to proceed with all possible expedition, with such a force as we have; and that I never thought half the forces necessary, that the General and your Excellency did; and that our most fatal enemy to be apprehended was delay.

Governor *Ascough* having both issued the proper orders, and had them duly put in vigorous execution, for manning Mr. *Hofier's* fleet, I cannot conceive why the same methods might not be put in practice by your Excellency for any supply Mr. *Wentworth* may think he wants for the transports, which I am persuaded cannot be considerable; and that it is in great part owing to the avarice of the masters, and the ill usage to the seamen from the forces; and taking that number of straggling seamen out of *Kingston*, I am  
fully

fully convinced, would be of prejudice to no one honest man in this island. I am,

*Beyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, Feb. 28, 1741.*

S I R,

your Excellency's  
most obedient

His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney.*

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**W**Hereas it might be of the most dangerous consequence to attempt carrying a large fleet into the sea at once from this harbour through so hazardous a channel; and as his Majesty's service, and the season of the year, call for our being at sea with the utmost expedition:

You are hereby required and directed to give orders to all your division (but the *Vulcan* fire-ship, who is ordered to anchor under the middle for their greater security of their getting out, as the *Phaeton* fire-ship is under *Drunken Man's* key) to be ready to proceed to sea with you, on Thursday the 4th day of this inst. *March*; if Gen. *Wentworth* has the first division of his transports and storeships ready to proceed with you; and you will in such case keep plying up under the Yellows, and lie off and on there with them, till my coming out to join you with the remainder of the fleet and transports, and storeships. And you will upon your being got out, give out the inclosed rendezvous, in sealed orders, to all the ships of your division, as I shall deliver sealed to Major *Lewis*, for the storeships, and to Mr. *Wallace* for the transports, the like sealed rendezvous to be issued to them, upon their being got out into the sea with them.

And you are to give all your Captains notice for their greater security in safe getting out, there will be boats sent out to buoy other parts of the channel, as one to lie with a jack flying upon her mast, upon the *Turtle Heads*, on the star-board side of the channel going out; one upon the inner *Portuguese*, with a red pendant flying, being on the lar-board side going out; and one with a blue pendant on the outer part of one brush reef, being on the star-board side going out, being past which they will have nothing to fear but the three fathom bank, lying to leeward of them, which, if from little wind and a swell setting them to leeward, they apprehend any danger from, you will direct them, taking particular care to anchor in time, as they will

in

in other parts of the channel, on the winds failing them; and to see they keep an anchor clear for running in going through this dangerous channel. For, &c. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal Harbour, Jamaica*, this 2d of *March*, 1741.

To Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, Rear Admiral *E. Vernon.*  
of the Blue Squadron of his Majesty's fleet.

S I R,

I Send you inclosed a copy of my orders to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, for proceeding to sea with his division on Thursday morning next, if you have your first division of transports and storeships ready to proceed with him then; for you will see by the reasons given in, that it is not prudent for us to attempt going to sea all in one day.

As the approaching rainy season is every day advancing upon us, I am persuaded you cannot but think with me, that our early getting to sea is of the utmost importance to secure success in this expedition, which should therefore take place of all other considerations; as such as cannot be now ready to sail with us, can easily have proper convoys appointed for bringing them after us, which is the method I beg leave to recommend to you, and that we may be proceeding with the force we have in readiness with all possible expedition; as I can suggest to my self no enemy like to be so fatal to us as delay.

If you think any detachment should be hastened to arrive a little before the main body, as seems suggested by Lieut. *Lowther*, I will comply with whatever you may think proper to desire in that particular. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour, S I R,*

*Jamaica, March 2, 1741.*

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have the favour of your's this morning by Mr. *Wentworth*, but have not yet seen Mr. *Wallace*, whenever I do you may be assured he shall (as he always has) meet all facility on my part, in giving him any assistance in my power.

Fearing, from your letter, I might have mistaken Lieut. *Lowther's* sentiments, I have since perused my copy of them, and find the fourth and fifth articles fully to comprehend what I hinted of it, when I wrote to you, Sir, that the

H

months



months of *February* and *March* were the most favourable for executing what he had proposed to you before my return into port, and it was a pleasure to me to find he had proposed what was so well approved of by you and Mr. *Trelawney*.

And I conceive his fifth article plainly intimates one part to be executed the day before our arrival at the general rendezvous, which occasioned my hinting it to you.

And though I am concerned to find, you think you cannot sail before Saturday, I must confess it gave me much more concern for what you mention, that you should not think it advisable to land till a transport of negroes should arrive, that was to sail after us, and I hope in God, we shall sail under no other resolution than immediately to attempt the success of what we enterprize, with the force we carry with us. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, March 3, 1741.*

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

UPON the receipt of the intelligence you sent me last night, I could not but judge it of consequence, to consult with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon it this morning; and as we are both of opinion that we ought to endeavour to intercept those reinforcements, as the principal point for securing success to the expedition, and that not a moment's time should be lost in setting about it:

We beg the favour, that you will send to Mr. *Blakeney* to attend a council of war, to be held on board the *Boyne*, at three o'clock this afternoon, as we have wrote to Gov. *Trelawney*, to desire he will, as we think the ships to attempt cutting them off from *Carthagena* should sail to morrow morning, and the signal for the general council of war will be made at two o'clock this afternoon. We are,

*Boyne, in Port Royal Harbour,  
Jamaica, March 4, 1741.*

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servants,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

*C. Ogle.*

By, &c.

HIS Majesty's service having called me out to sea, pursuant to the resolution of our general council of war yesterday, which you have a copy of inclosed with these orders,

You are hereby required and directed to conform your self to the resolution of the said general council of war, and take

take upon you the charge and command of his Majesty's ships appointed to compose the squadron for our long intended expedition, and to proceed to sea with the remainder of them, as the said resolution directs, whenever General *Wentworth* shall let you know he is ready to proceed to sea with his transports and storeships.

But in regard to the dangerousness of the channel, you will at least dispose them into two divisions, for your safe getting out, that they may not crowd one another ashore on one side or other of this dangerous channel.

And though, Sir, you well remember that I pressed it upon the Governor, that he ought in my apprehension to exert himself in taking up such a number of straggling seamen as would be sufficient to supply the masters of transports negligence, in the performance of their charter parties, if it was not owing to an encouraged wilfulness in it, for preventing their going to sea, for which I have ordered them all to be protected against; and notwithstanding General *Wentworth's* refusal to give any assistance for procuring such straggling seamen out of *Kingston*, which would have proved rather an advantage to trade than a prejudice to it; yet to prevent any artful defeat to the transports being in condition to put to sea, you are through their refusal to do any thing on their parts, to give the aid of a press afloat, to supply what numbers they may absolutely want more than a draught from their remaining hospital ships, and what prisoners you can supply them with from the *Sheerness Prize*, and a draught of ten prisoners from the *Prince Frederick* will be sufficient, and to send such pressed men, as you judge they shall want, on board to the General, for his distributing them as he judges proper, and returning all such as shall be impressed, more than it may be found their necessities require; and to assure the parties interested a due account shall be returned to the navy board in order for procuring a defalcation of wages from such masters of transports, for indemnifying them in any extraordinary expence they shall be put to, to supply their places.

Having left orders for all the ships that are not to compose our present squadron, you will not be embarrassed for any orders for them.

But in regard to the enemy's reinforcement being said to be of six men of war, you will hasten out to me the *York*, to our first general rendezvous off *Point a Canoa*, or in *Playa Grande* to morrow if she be ready.

And having ordered the Agent victuallers to ship two months provisions on board victuallers hired for that purpose, you will take to sea such of them as are loaded and ready to sail with you, and to order Capt. *Rentone*, in the *Rippon*, to bring after you such as shall be loaded and ready to sail when he does; and you will order the said Agents to get the remainder shipped and ready to come under convoy of the *Strafford*, or the next ship that shall be coming pursuant to my orders to join us.

And you will give all such further orders to the agent victuallers and store-keepers, as you shall judge to be for his Majesty's service, as you will in all other respects that you judge his Majesty's service may require it. And you will likewise, at the request of General *Wentworth*, as the oldest General Officer, convene any council of war, upon his representing it to be for his Majesty's service, calling to assist at it the next senior Sea-officer in command to yourself.

And in regard that surgeons mates may be wanted, you will bring to sea with you in the hospital ships the surgeons mates of the bombketches, and in case of necessity may lend a few men from the bombketches and their tenders, for the service of the transports, obliging the masters to pay them such additional wages, as you judge reasonable.

And you will appoint the rendezvous for Capt. *Rentone* or any ships to follow you to be and supply Capt. *Rentone* with what *Americans* he may want from the *Tilbury*, and a lent of seamen from the *Princess Louisa* and *Chester*, if further necessary. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* at sea, this 5th of *March*, 1741.

*E. Vernon*

To Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, Rear Admiral of the Blue Squadron of his Majesty's fleet.

My Lord Duke,

MY last letter to your Grace was of the 25th of *Feb.* and which I hoped would have been at sea before now, by Capt. *Boscawen* of the *Prince Frederick*; who says, he shall sail to morrow.

And I hope this letter will get in time to come by him, to inform your Grace, that on my receiving, the 3d instant at night, from General *Wentworth*, an inclosed letter of intelligence, I send your Grace herewith a copy of, I next morning

morning consulted Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon it, and we both judged it of importance, immediately to summon a general council of war upon it, and your Grace has annexed to that letter a copy of our joint letter to General *Wentworth*, desiring he would bring Mr. *Blakeney* with him to a general council of war on board the *Boyne*, the same day; and having sent the like summons to Governor *Trelawney*, we met accordingly, and your Grace has enclosed a copy of the unanimous resolution of the said general council of war; and having sent Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, by an officer of his (I carried out to sea with me for that purpose) the necessary orders for his government, I am at sea, to proceed off *Carthagena*, and act agreeable to the said resolution, having with me now three sixty gun ships, the *Fowey*, a fifth rate, and a fire-ship, and I expect to meet some of my cruizers off *Carthagena*, and shall have the *York*, another sixty gun ship, following me to morrow.

I shall only at present add, whenever matters come to be enquired into, as I hope they will, and think they ought; I am persuaded it will be found, no delay can be laid at my door.

I heartily wish the intelligence may be true, and your Grace may be assured, no endeavours of mine shall be wanting for serving our Royal Master with the zeal and activity of a faithful subject and servant, which I shall always carefully endeavour to approve myself. I am,

My Lord Duke,

*Boyne*, at sea, *March*  
5, 1741.

your Grace's most devoted  
and obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I GOT over into the *Playa Grande* the 11th in the evening, and tacked in seven fathom water off *Carthagena* town, and saw there only one unrigged ship, which I have been informed was the *French* register ship, that passed by Capt. *Davers* and his ships, and got into *Carthagena* soon after our leaving it; the same evening I was joined by Capt. *Laws* and Capt. *Knight*, the latter having secured us two *Sinu* hulks, as I had ordered him, and saved from perishing six *English* seamen, overset in a *Spanish* sloop, taken by one of our traders, and he got out some of her cargo, whilst the weather would permit his lying alongside the wreck. Capt. *Knight* had anchored at *Boca Chica*, and took from St. *Joseph's* a cable and part of a shrowdhawser,



hawser, that had, he believes, been fished up from the sunken *Spanish* men of war; there were several men upon *St. Joseph's*, who all retired, upon his anchoring there, and when he sent ashore, could not find they had been doing any thing to their destroyed forts in those parts, so those were probably seamen and the country people that had been fishing for what they could get.

But upon my standing off that night, just before the time I had ordered them to wear and stand in again, (through the imprudence of the Lieutenant in carrying the main top-sail when he should have handed it) we sprung the *Boyne's* main-mast, and the carpenter being against carrying any sail upon it, I could not fetch to anchor either in *Playa Grande*, or *Boca Chica*, which I intended if I could have fetched it, so was forced to bear up for the *Baru*, to secure my main-mast, which by casing him round, we hope we can do, though the spring is a very great one, and is partly owing to a former wound (the shot hole when she was in to batter against *Boca Chica* Castle) and I got to an anchor here the 12th at night; but as I shall by Monday the 15th at night be fit for the sea again, though it was unnecessary to shift my flag for so short a time, especially as I cannot learn from my cruizers, that there is any appearance of the news Mr. *Wentworth* sent me, of the six *Spanish* men of war coming to convoy a reinforcement of four thousand men having any truth in it, and on looking over our cruizers journals, since I have had leisure for it, I find Capt. *Rentone* did not leave his station of cruizing to windward off *Carthagena* till the 23d of *January*, Capt. *Brodrick* continued after him till the 8th of *February*, and Capt. *Laws* and Capt. *Knight* came on the station by the 20th of *February*, so there was only between the 8th and the 20th of *February* that they could have slipped by, and I thank God no such succours or supplies have ever arrived; and therefore the men of war, and the four thousand men, appear to me ingrafted news, upon the first intelligence we met with when we were cruizing to windward off *Port Louis*, of a supply of arms and ammunition being going for *Carthagena* in four ships from the coast of *Caraccas*; and which by the report of one of our traders from *Rio la Hacha* of the 10th of *January*, were to be convoyed by four *Spanish* privateers from *St. Domingo*, neither of which, however, have yet arrived here. And you know, Sir, we have the *Lion* and *Seaborse* beating up for cruizing for them off *Rio la Hacha*,

*Hiacha*, to windward of *Santa Martha*, but the breezes blow so very hard, no one can answer when they can get so far to windward till the breezes abate, without the current favouring them extraordinarily.

I send this letter for meeting you, in case you should get on the coast before I am in condition to put to sea again, and desire you will take with you any of the ships you judge proper, for your proceeding directly. And pray send to General *Wentworth*, and acquaint him, that as it appeared plainly to you and me by Lieut. *Lowther's* proposal, that a detachment of six hundred men were to land at *Nombre de Dios*, the day before our going into *Porto-Bello*; we hope he has made a proper disposition for it, as we desired at our last council of war; and if he has, pray order a man of war and a fireship to convoy those transports into the *Bastimentos*, and then to come immediately and join us in *Porto-Bello*, where I doubt not but I shall, at all adventures, arrive as soon as you, as you move with so large a train, if I do not get to sea to meet you myself off *Point Canoa*, as I hope and believe I shall.

With my best wishes for your good health, and long enjoyment of it, I am,

Sir, your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

*Boyne*, at anchor under  
the *Great Bara*, 13th  
March, 1747.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle*.

By, &c.

THE *Boyne's* main-mast being sprung at or before two o'clock yesterday morning, having obliged me to bear away for the first anchoring place, to have it fished and secured:

You are hereby required and directed to keep cruizing off *Playa Grande*, or *Point Canoa*, on the Breezes, for preventing any succours getting into *Carthagera*, and looking out for Sir *Chaloner Ogle* with the convoy of transports and store-ships, that I am now daily expecting, and on meeting him, you will inform him of the accident, and desire him to proceed for my following him with all possible expedition, and in other respects referring you to my former orders, and the sealed rendezvous you have had from me.

And the *Montagu*, *Worcester*, *Defiance* and *Fowey* are to continue cruizing with you, under your orders, for the abovementioned services, pursuant to their orders from me  
for

for putting themselves under your command, till your meeting Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, when I have directed them to follow his orders, and you are to come yourself to bring me immediate advice of it, as I hope in three days to have all set to rights again. For, &c. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne* at anchor in the *Grand Baru* this 13th of *March*, 1741.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Laws* of the *Greenwich*.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to put yourself under the command of Capt. *Laws*, in his Majesty's ship the *Greenwich*, and to continue cruising with him, for preventing any succours getting into *Carthagera*, and looking out for Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, you are to join him, and follow such orders as he shall give you for his Majesty's service. For, &c. Given under my hand, on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, at anchor in the *Great Baru*, the 13th of *March*, 1741.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Chambers*, commander of  
his Majesty's ship the *Montagu*.

The like order to Capt.  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Cleland of the } \textit{Worcester} \\ \text{Hore of the } \textit{Defiance} \\ \text{Tucker of the } \textit{Fowey} \end{array} \right\} \text{ of the same date.}$

My Lord Duke,

UPON the hurry I failed in on the 5th of *March*, pursuant to the unanimous resolution of the council of war of the preceding evening, I could not get transcribed in time to send your Grace in my letter of the 5th the long order I sent in to Sir *Chaloner Ogle* (by Lieut. *Simcoe*, one of his Lieutenants, I took out in his tender for that purpose) the particulars of which I had mentioned to him after the council of war; but having so many coming to me upon business that evening, I had no time to write the order till next day.

But I now lay hold of my most leisure time at sea, to have it copied, for coming inclosed in this letter, by the first opportunity that offers, as probably I may fall in with some of our trading sloops, to send it by in time for it's going home by the *Prince of Orange*, Capt. *Stapleton*, the last of the untheathed ships, that had finished her careening the day before I failed, and was got into a tight condition  
for

for proceeding home, for which he had my orders, as soon as ever he could get ready.

And in that ship comes Gen. *Guise*, whom (for my misfortune, as well as his Majesty's) his want of health obliges to go home; for had he been at *Cuba*, I am persuaded the forces would not have laid there so long unactive, as I must do him the justice to say he was always for pushing forward every service proposed with vigour; which is a point absolutely necessary in these intemperate climates, where sickness is sure to enfeeble you, and sweep off your forces, if you do not bring them to speedy action, while they have health and vigour for it. And I believe your Grace well remembers, in my early letters, before Mr. *Wentworth's* arrival, that I gave it as my opinion the first six weeks were the prime of their time for action.

Sir *Chaloner's* own ship the *Cumberland*, through a fire that happened by the badness of the brickwork of the furnaces, had her coppers to new hang at that time; and the *Grafton*, one of the seventy gun ships, being assign'd for Mr. *Wentworth's* accommodation, as the *Kent*, the other seventy gun ship, was for Mr. *Trelawney's*, there was a necessity for my proposing to go myself; and those damages would be repaired in time for Sir *Chaloner* proceeding with Mr. *Wentworth*, but the loss of one day might have been material, if the advices Mr. *Wentworth* sent me should prove true.

On the 11th I got into the *Play a Grande* off *Carthagena*, and was pleased to find there was but one ship there, lying unrigg'd, being said to be the *French* register ship, that got in there soon after my leaving the place last; that night had the misfortune to have the *Boyne's* mainmast sprung, which obliging me to get under the *Baru*, the 12th to repair the damage as well as we can, I dispatched the *Defiance* on the 13th to join the ships cruizing off *Carthagena*, with orders for them, till my being ready to put to sea to join them, which I hope to be by Monday the 15th. And having in my letter to Sir *Chaloner Ogle* included the intelligence I had met with, as well as the orders sent him for his government, in case he should pass by before I got back to that station; I send your Grace a copy of that letter inclosed, for a full information in both particulars.

One of our traders coming in here the 13th to refit, from the damages he has met with at sea, I find in his opinion, as well as of many others, lately return'd from the



coast, that Commodore *Anson* is believed to be got into the *South Seas*, and is said to have taken to the value of a million and half in treasure and merchandize; and that he was careening his ships at an island called *Puna*, near *Payta* in the *South Seas*, lying between *Lima* and *Panama*. I hope for our Royal Master's honour and service this will prove true; and they all give it for a reason, why they have had little or no trade with the *Spaniards*. And it must have been a particular good fortune to Mr. *Anson* to have gained a winter passage round *Cape Horn*, and to have left *Pizarro* at *Buenos Ayres*, where many *Spanish* letters mention him to be put to, as they do that Mr. *Anson* had perished in the sea. But I hope in God our trader's news will prove true; and that by means of this trading sloop this letter may get to *Jamaica* in time, for coming to your Grace's hands by the *Prince of Orange* Capt. *Stapylton*.

And the said trading sloop the *Ranger*, Capt. *Thresher*, says, he saw the *Experiment*, and my sloop tender with her, go into the *Bastimentos* the 10th of *February*; so that Lieut. *Lowther* will have arrived in good time, for putting in execution the orders and instructions he had from Mr. *Wentworth*.

I am sorry to have occasion to add, that the *Worcester* Captain *Cleland* discovered his foremast to be sprung the 13th in the evening. I immediately sent my carpenter to view it, who found it to be a dangerous one, so he must get it fished here by two anchor stocks, before he can move from hence; but I shall leave him the assistance of my carpenters, as soon as I have completed our carpenters work. That is the only ship I have with me here, and a small sloop tender, which I have sent to watch *Passeo Cavallos*, and inspect the entrance of the *Matunilla*, lying at the head of this bay, where they pass up for going to *Mompox*, in the rainy seasons, when they have water for it; which may serve to encrease their alarm of our intending our attempts on these parts.

Just before my sailing Capt. *Ward* in the *Sheernefs* brought in with him a *Spanish* settee, bound for *La Vera Cruz*, with between thirty and forty men, and a rich cargo.

I am glad before I conclude my letter I can acquaint your Grace, we shall have secured both the *Boyne's* and *Worcester's* sprung masts, and that I intend to put to sea to-morrow, for joining my ships cruizing to windward off *Carthagena*.

My sloop tender, with my boats, are just returned from  
viewing

viewing the *Matunilla* and *Pasfo Cavallos*; the boats rowed three leagues up the *Matunilla*, and have brought us down four canoes, that will be of great service in our expedition: they could come up only with a negroe woman, which they released, but could get no other intelligence from her, than that was the way the boats pass'd that were bound for *Mompas*; so this excursion to serve may continue them under the apprehension of having our views to these parts. I am,

*Boyne* at anchor under  
the great *Baru*, 15  
March, 1741.

My Lord Duke,  
your Grace's most devoted,  
and obedient humble servant,  
His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*. *E. Vernon.*

S I R,

TO accompany my last to you of the 13th instant from the *Baru*, I have the pleasure of writing this from the *Play a Grande*, after having joined all my ships here, and having, I hope, pretty well secured both the *Boyne's* main-mast and *Worcester's* foremast; and as we have had a run of moderate weather since those hard gales, hope you will have met a favourable passage.

Finding the currents so frequently changing, and the weather so variable, as well as often hazy, and discovering some rocks I was much too near, about three leagues S.W. by W. from *Point Canoa*, which I have annexed to this letter the bearings of, I judged it the safest and securest way of preventing any succours getting into *Carthagena*, to anchor here with the main body; and have detach'd Capt. *Laws* in the *Greenwich*, with the *Fowey*, and my sloop tender, into *Boca Chica*, and the fireship to lay to windward of the *Boquilla*; so they are effectually blocked up by sea, which will keep them under the alarm of our visit being design'd to them.

I send you inclosed a copy of the intelligence we have procured, by a *Dutch* ship from *Truxillo*, of Capt. *Lea's* proceedings: but hope the latter part from *Europe* will not prove true, that our worthy friend should so rashly punish himself for offences of others committing.

You may imagine I impatiently long to see you, or hear from you; and on my cruizers meeting you with this, on your sending him back to advise me of your proceedings, you may proceed forward, for losing no farther time; and I shall follow you with all possible expedition on the first advice, and leave a cruizer to pick up and bring stragglers after us; for I lament the loss of time, as of most fatal consequence to us.

With my best wishes for our speedy meeting, and for  
your good health. I am,

*Boyne, at anchor in Play a  
Grande off Carthagena,  
March 24, 1741.*

Sir, your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

Bearings of the Rocks.

Little Point Canoa N. E. by E. eight miles.

The great tree in Play a Grande E. S. E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.

Sir Chaloner Ogle.

S I R,

AFTER congratulating you on so fine a day for our  
meeting, I am glad I can acquaint you by intelligence  
from a trader, that Capt. *Dennis* in the *Experiment*, and  
Lieut. *Lowther* with the sloop, both were seen going into  
the *Bastimentos* on the 10th of *February* last.

And I send you inclosed a copy of the intelligence I had  
from a Dutch sloop, of Capt. *Lea* in the *Bonetta*, with Lieut.  
*Hodgson* in the *Transport*, being arrived at the island of *Ba-*  
*nacca* on the first day of this month, and having luckily  
met with Capt. *Pitts* there, and others; and by this account,  
they will be at the rendezvous assign'd them before us.

I heartily congratulate you on such fair prospects, and  
hope the rains will keep off, to give a prosperous success to  
the expedition.

They are erecting a strong battery at the *Pasillilio*, with  
the ruin of *Castillio Grande*.

Capt. *Laws* is in at *Boca Chica*, when he joins us shall  
know farther particulars.

And I am glad I can add no ships or succours are yet ar-  
rived at *Carthagena*. I am,

*Boyne at sea off Carthagena,  
March 25, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to put to sea, as  
soon as you can after the receipt of these orders, brought  
you by Capt. *Knight*, together with the *Fowey*, and my  
sloop tender, and to make the best of your way after the  
fleet for *Porto Bello* harbour; but if you meet any strag-  
gling transports or storeships in your way, you will take  
them under your particular care, protection and convoy,  
to see them safe thither with you, for, &c. Given on  
board

board the *Boyne*, at sea off *Carthagena*, this 25th of *March* 1742.

To Capt. *Laws* of the *Greenwich*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to put yourself under the command of Capt. *Laws*, in his Majesty's ship the *Greenwich*, and to follow such orders as he shall give you, for his Majesty's service, in pursuance of the orders he has received from me, for, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, at sea off *Carthagena*, this 25th of *March* 1742.

To Capt. *Tucker* of the *Fowey*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to make the best of your way to *Boca Chica*, the entrance of *Carthagena* harbour, and there to deliver Capt. *Laws* the order you have for him, and Capt. *Tucker* his orders for putting himself under Capt. *Laws*'s command.

And you will proceed to cruize off *Pointa Canoa*, for picking any straggling transports or storeships that may fall in there; and having cruized there for a week, or being sure you have met with the last of them, you will then make the best of your way for joining me in the harbour of *Porto Bello*. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, at sea off *Carthagena*, this 25th of *March* 1742.

To Capt. *Knight* of the *St. Albans*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

AS so few of our pilots have ever been in *Porto Bello*, I thought it necessary to give out the under mentioned orders for our order of battle in going in; and as my own officers and men are the most experienced in it, I thought it the safest way to avoid mistakes to take the lead on both tacks myself, which I am persuaded you will approve of, and is as follows. I am,

*Boyne* at sea, *March* 27, 1742. S I R,

Sir *Chalner Ogle*. your most obedient humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

WHEREAS the pilots of the *Boyne* and *Cumberland* are the best acquainted with the going into the harbour of *Porto Bello*, I have determined, that Sir *Chalner Ogle* and I will lead our respective divisions upon our sailing in line of battle.



And you are hereby required and directed carefully to follow in the post assigned you in the line of battle, with this only alteration of our leading: Our respective divisions, instead of being in the center, which on the present occasion I judge most for his Majesty's service, and that I will, on this occasion, lead the fleet in with my division on either *Jack*, as the wind offers; and you are to keep a good half mile distance from each other, for our having room to work in, if we cannot lead it in, or to take an anchoring birth without confusion.

And you are to take particular care to have your ship in condition for action in all respects, in case the enemy should have erected any new works to dispute our entrance. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* at sea, this 27th of *March*, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Watson* of the *Boyne*.

*Memorandum.* The fire-ships and hospital ships to keep in the rear, and the transports and storeships to follow them in.

The like order, of the same date, to

C. Norris of the <i>Cumberland</i> .	C. Pellat of the <i>Vulcan</i> F.S.
<i>Allen</i>	<i>Grafton.</i>
<i>Mitchell</i>	<i>Kent.</i>
<i>Cleland</i>	<i>Worcester.</i>
<i>Hore</i>	<i>Defiance.</i>
<i>Sturton</i>	<i>Phaeton ditto.</i>
<i>Beaver</i>	<i>Strombolo dit.</i>
<i>Douglas</i>	<i>P. Royal H.S.</i>
<i>Swanton</i>	<i>Scarborough d<sup>o</sup></i>

By, &c.

AS I shall go into the harbour of *Porto Bello* in line of battle, as uncertain what preparations the enemy may have been making, and have ordered my fireships and hospital ships to come next in the rear of us;

You are hereby required and directed to give orders to the respective masters of transports under your orders to keep in the rear of the fireships, and not to crowd too thick upon each other in coming in, for fear of forcing one another ashore.

And to keep their lead going, when they come to the harbour's mouth, and not to come too near the southern or lee shore, which is foul ground for two cables off, at their first entrance. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* at sea this 27th of *March*, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

To Mr. *Wallace*, Agent for transports.

The like, of the same date, to Major *Lewis*, to give orders to the ordnance storeships,

S I R,

S I R,

I HAVE received your letter of this day, and have detached the *Montague*, Capt. *Chambers*, yesterday to look out for the *Experiment*, and hope she may join us to-morrow, if she does, I will order the *Montague* and *Experiment* to go into the *Bastimentos* with the detachment that have your orders for landing at *Nombre de Dios*, and they shall to distinguish them, carry a *Jack* upon their main-top gallant mast head.

But if we do not meet with them, we must not lye in the sea, and I shall carry the whole fleet directly into *Porto Bello*, looking on the landing at *Nombre de Dios* (in my apprehension) of no great consequence, as he says in his own account. The party landed up the river *Cascaball*, have but six miles to march before they could join the other party at *Taxa Buena*, where the detachment from *Nombre de Dios* was to come.

And as this armament cannot lye in the sea (as *Bays's* army) in disguise, it plainly appears to me, if we miss of the *Experiment* and *Lowther* at present, the shortest and secretest way of securing that pass at *Taxa Buena*, is to sail directly into the harbour, and send the troops up the river *Cascaball*; and I am now giving out my disposition for that, and conceive there can be no occasion for calling a council of war till we are quietly anchored in the harbour of *Porto Bello*. I am,

Boyne at sea, March S I R,

27, 1742.

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

WHEREAS the council of war have judged it for his Majesty's service inviolably to preserve the clergy, magistracy, and inhabitants of the town of *Porto Bello*, in the quiet and peaceable enjoyment of their persons and properties:

You are conformably thereto on your being now hereby required and directed, to proceed with the detachment under your command to take possession of the King of *Spain's* custom-house at the water-side, which the council of war look on as the property of the Crown, and to mount a guard there regularly, and not to suffer any officers or men of your detachment to go without the limits of your centries, without your particular license, as they must answer for the same at their utmost peril. And you will  
take

take care to prevent all surprizals, and to maintain your post, in case the ingratitude or imprudence of any one should invite them to act contrary to their duty.

And if any are inhabiting in the said *Contaderia* or custom-house, you will assign them a part of the house for their peaceable residence, but not to suffer any thing to be removed out of it; and to act under these orders till you are relieved, and to leave your orders with the officer relieving you. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 29th of *March*, 1742.

To Capt. *Grant* of Gen. *Harrison's*  
regiment, commanding the detachment on board of the *Boyne*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

WHEREAS the council of war have judged it for his Majesty's service inviolably to preserve the clergy, magistracy, and inhabitants of the town of *Porto Bello*, in the quiet and peaceable enjoyment of their persons and properties:

For the more securely preserving the same to them, you are hereby required and directed not to suffer any of your boats to go on shore without an officer, whose conduct you can be answerable for; and not to continue a shore after sun set, nor to go to *Porto Bello* without my leave for it. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 29th of *March*, 1742.

To Capt. *Watson* Commander of  
his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*.

*E. Vernon.*

The like to Capt. *Cleland* of the *Worcester*

<i>Allen</i>	<i>Grafton</i>
<i>Hore</i>	<i>Defiance</i>
<i>Laws</i>	<i>Greenwich</i>
<i>Rentone</i>	<i>Rippon</i>
<i>Sturton</i>	<i>Phaeton</i> fire-ship
<i>Beavor</i>	<i>Strombolo</i> ditto
Com. Officer	<i>Dorothy</i> S. tender
Ditto	<i>Elizabeth</i> ditto
<i>Douglass</i>	<i>Prin. Royal</i> , H. S.

*Memorandum.* The copy of the above order was given the same day to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, to deliver the like to the respective ships of his division.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed with his Majesty's ship the *Experiment*, under your command, and  
the

the sloop and two sloop tenders, of which the Lieutenants that command them have received my orders to put themselves under your command, immediately to put to sea with them, and to make the best of your way off the mouth of the river *Chagre*, where you will come to anchor yourself, and with the tenders and your boats to go directly into the river *Chagre*, if you find no new batteries erected at the entrance for opposing your coming in, to endeavour to surprize and take a brigantine that is said to be loading of cocoa there, and if you find her in any part of the river below their new fort at *Grotton*, you will endeavour to warp your tenders up to her, for the taking or destroying of her, and the half galley they are said to have there likewise.

And after your using your best endeavours for the performing the services abovementioned, you will then ply up into the bay of *Porto de Naos*, for which you will have a *Spanish* pilot, and a sketch of a pretty good draught for your guidance; and as there is said to be a very short passage over land, from the bottom of that bay to the fortresses at *Grotton*, you will go with a strong party to view the said land passage, if you find it to be a short one, for making me a report what sort of a fortification it is, and whether cannon cannot pass that way for attacking it, and whether hills or woods do not lye near behind it for favouring such an attack, and to observe whether there be any convenient watering for ships in the said bay; and having used your best endeavours for executing the services abovementioned, and made the best observations on the inspections above directed you, you are to make the best of your way for returning to join me in this harbour. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 30th of *March*, 1742.

To Capt. *Dennis* of the *Experiment*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to put yourself under the command of Capt. *Dennis* in his Majesty's ship the *Experiment*, and to follow all such orders as he shall give you for his Majesty's service, for the execution of the orders he has received from me. For, &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 30th of *March*, 1742.

To Lieut. *John Saunders* commanding  
officer of his Majesty's sloop tender  
*Elizabeth*.

*E. Vernon.*





to protect ships in the bason between that castle and the town, and as my messengers were received by the Viceroy in *Carthagena*, they passed close by it, and counted sixteen ambrazures facing *Castillo Grande*, and the other face of the work I take to be towards *Texar de Gracias*, where our forces landed. And your Grace has inclosed copies of my said letter to the Viceroy, and of his Excellency's answer to me, who received them himself very civilly; and as I thought it might be of future service to his Majesty's subjects, I determined to oblige him in his request, and you have inclosed a copy of my answer to the Viceroy's letter.

On *Lady Day* in the morning I had the pleasure to discover the fleet, coming in with the land, and I put to sea, and joined them that afternoon, and after a short conference with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and giving out some necessary orders, made sail on with the whole fleet, that evening, in time for drawing them together, and their knowing the course we were to steer for the night.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* having put the account of his proceedings, since I left him, in a letter he sent me in the morning; I cannot give your Grace a better account of them, than by sending you inclosed a copy of his letter to me of the 25th of *March*.

And he having sent me, at the same time, the letters he brought me from Capt. *Stevens*, of the account of his proceedings and observations, whilst he was in the *Morro Castle*, treating on the cartel; I send your Grace inclosed a copy of his letter to me the 13th of *March*, and likewise of the cartel for the exchange of prisoners, and of the Governor of *St. Jago de Cuba*'s letter to me of the 16th of *March*, N. S.

And your Grace has also inclosed, copies of the letters sent me by Capt. *Dennis*, of the *Experiment*, and Lieut. *Lowther*, of the 16th of *Feb.* 1741; which will fully inform your Grace of their proceedings, and the intelligence Lieut. *Lowther* had procured.

And as Capt. *Laws*, and the others riding at *Boca Chica* could not perceive any thing of us, I sent away the same evening Capt. *Knight* in the *St. Albans*, with orders for Capt. *Laws* in the *Greenwich*, with the *Fowey* and my sloop tender, immediately to put to sea from thence, and follow me to *Porto Bello*, looking out for, and taking care of all stragglers that may fall in their way. And Capt. *Knight* has my orders (when he has delivered Capt. *Laws* his) to cruize for a week off *Point Canoa*, for the said service.

vice of picking up stragglers, and convoying them safe to us afterwards.

On *Sunday* the 28th of *March*, before noon, I thank God, I had as providential a landfall, just to windward of the *Bastimentos* (as I intended) as could be desired ; and missing of the *Experiment* in that station I had appointed for her, and finding I had wind to reach the harbour of *Porto Bello* before night, and having the day before given out my order of battle for going in, for leading myself on both Tacks, as being best acquainted there ; as soon as I was passed the *Bastimentos*, without discovering the *Experiment*, I made the signal for line of battle, and pushed away directly for the harbour, and happily got to an anchor there before night, and the whole fleet into anchor ground. And before night I made the signal for our general council of war, and kept the deputies from the town, for their having the assurance of the whole council for their protection, if they did nothing on their parts to render them unworthy of it, and observing on my first anchoring, many were flying from the town, I dispatched an officer and an interpreter up directly, to desire they would put themselves under no unjust apprehension, but continue peaceably in their own possessions, and we sent their deputies back that evening, highly pleased with the assurances that were given them, and desired their company on the next morning to breakfast with me, where they came accordingly ; and I send your Grace inclosed, a copy of the resolution of our general council of war, of the 29th of *March* drawn up and signed whilst they were on board, which will inform your Grace what we recommended to them, before we dismissed them. And as soon as the council was ended, I sent a detachment of fourscore soldiers from my ship, to take possession of the King's custom house, (they call the *Contadorio*) and I had the same evening a visit from all the clergy, who seemed all in good humour, and in a firm reliance that they might depend on what had been promised them ; and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of the orders I gave to Capt. *Grant*, of Col. *Harrison's* regiment, for his government, and all officers that were to relieve him ; and I must leave to the General to acquaint your Grace, what he did farther in conformity to the resolutions of the council of war.

As I was going into the harbour of *Porto Bello*, the *Experiment* came out from under the *Savanillo* keys, and joined me with Lieut. *Lowther* and the guides he had procured,

so I ordered him to warp close up to the town that night, and my boat brought down to me an empty brigantine, that was lying there, which is *English* built, and was lately bought from the *French*.

As soon as the council of war was over, I could not but be greatly surpris'd at Gov. *Trelawney* taking me aside, to desire I would appoint a ship immediately to return with him to *Jamaica*, for his getting back in time to meet his assembly, as it was not designed to proceed to *Panama*. I told him as to the proceeding to *Panama*, that depending on the council of war of land officers, I knew nothing yet of their resolutions, as that (he knew) was a matter now referred to them; to which he said, that was already resolved on; and I said, I could not know that, but in consequence of their resolutions, when they were regularly communicated to me, and could not spare any of the ships now with me, but he should have the first that came in at his command, as I expected some hourly.

And the 29th there came in sight the ships and sloop from *Boca Chica*, the sloop got into the harbour the 30th of *March* in the morning, but the ships were obliged (by thick weather and rains) to anchor in the night far off in the *Offing*, but by the sloop I learn they watered their ships at *Boca Chica*, and Capt. *Laws* took in a part of the ruins of the fort *St. Joseph* for ballast, and Capt. *Forrest* sailed quite up the harbour to make his remarks in the sloop tender.

And to be forward in every thing on my part, I send your Grace inclosed a copy of my orders to Capt. *Dennis* in the *Experiment*, and I am forced to be hurrying in my letters to your Grace, that they may be ready to go by Capt. *Laws*, who is ready watered, and so can proceed whenever Gov. *Trelawney* desires it.

The *Experiment* having fortunately intercepted a canoa, going with letters from *Panama*, to *Carthagena*; I send your Grace a copy of a letter from the President of *Panama* to the Viceroy of *Santa Fe*, at *Carthagena*, and from what extracts have been collected by my translators, it appears Mr. *Anson* had providentially gained his passage round *Cape Horn*, and that he got to the island of *St. Juan Fernandez*, where he remained four or five months to recruit his men and refit his ships; that he had since plundered *Poyta*, and taken four or five sail of ships between *Lima* and *Panama*, by which he had got considerable treasure, and that he went from thence to the island of *Plata* to careen; and that five ships had come from *Lima* to *Panama*  
in



in quest of him, and were put to sea again in pursuit of him. As I gave Gen. *Wentworth* and Gov. *Trelawney* a part of the intercepted letters, probably their translators may have found other material intelligence. And I hope at all events our arrival here will at least be a seasonable diversion to their hunting after Commodore *Anson*.

On the 30th in the afternoon, I received from Gen. *Wentworth* the opinion of the council of land officers of the same day, where Gov. *Trelawney* appearing to have signed it as one, I was the less surpris'd at his being so well acquainted with it before. And as you see now, our general council of war is compos'd of three land officers to two sea officers, that will fully explain to your Grace, what I have mentioned in former letters, that I was but a cypher in the general council of war, and therefore judg'd it most for his Majesty's service, to resolve to support, the best I could, any thing they should think proper to undertake, hoping they would be hearty in pursuing a project of their own proposing; though I cannot say, in my own judgment and observation, I ever thought Mr. *Wentworth* sincere in it, which, to those I could have a confidence in, I very freely express'd my doubts of.

On the 30th in the evening, I got to sea the *Experiment* and the three tenders, under the inclos'd orders to Capt. *Dennis*.

And on the 31st in the morning I held the general council of war, as Mr. *Wentworth* desired, and have annex'd a copy of the resolution of our council of war, held this day, to the unanimous opinion of the council of war of land officers; whom I think would have serv'd his Majesty better, in declaring that opinion to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, (upon their receiving the return from Lieut. *Lewther*,) who had a power from me to call a council of war, at Mr. *Wentworth's* request, since great expence and hazard might have been sav'd to the Crown, from declaring their minds then, when the armament might have returned to *Port Royal*, instead of proceeding to this place on an expedition, they seem to have come determin'd not to proceed upon, though it was intirely of their own hatching up, when Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I were at sea.

Gov. *Trelawney* pressing for sailing to day, I have not time to add more than my lamentation for my situation with such a yoke-fellow, and that I shall nevertheless carefully have a faithful regard to the honour and interest of our Royal Master, in serving him to the best of my abilities,  
till

till I am relieved by his Majesty's orders, which I ardently long for, as I see I cannot serve him in such circumstances. I am,

*Boyne, in Porto Bello  
Harbour, March  
31, 1742.*

My Lord Duke,

your Grace's most devoted  
and obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**W** Hereas his Excellency Gov. *Trelawney* has desired I would appoint him a ship for his immediate return to *Jamaica*:

You are hereby required and directed to receive on board his Majesty's ship the *Greenwich*, under your command, his Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*, and his retinue, and *William* and *Richard Beckford*, Esqrs. with their servants, who came as volunteers to serve with his Excellency on this expedition, and to give his Excellency and them the best accommodation you can, and bear them for victuals for the time of their passage, and until your landing them at *Jamaica*.

And you are afterwards to apply yourself to having your ship cleaned, careened, and fitted for the sea, and as that will occasion your continuance in port, where you will be the eldest officer, you will take the command in the harbour upon you, till my return; and as the hurry you sail in at his Excellency's request, gives me no time for having orders drawn up for you, you will govern yourself by acting under the orders prepared now to be sent to Capt. *Young*, that you will take a copy of, and by ordering him to give you a copy of the orders I left with him, for his government in my absence, which you are hereby required and directed carefully to conform to.

And as you will be charged with packets of importance to his Majesty's service, you are hereby required and directed to send for Capt. *Long* of the *Chester*, and deliver the said packets into his own hands, with the orders you have for him to ride post with them to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, from the first port in *England* he shall arrive at with his convoy, and you are to direct his renewing his notice of sailing with the said convoy on the 25th of *April* as desired, and not on any account to delay the sailing of the said convoy longer than the first day of *May* at farthest.

And as you will receive a Lieutenant's commission for the Gentleman recommended by Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, as likewise

likewise a gunner's warrant both for the *Chester*, you will send for them, and have them sworn before you, before you deliver the said commission and warrant to them respectively.

And as you will have the *Vesuvius* fire-ship for a clean ship, if any orders come from *England*, you will have her to send them to me by, if they should not come out by a ship proper to be forwarded with them to me; but as their miscarriage might be of importance to his Majesty's service, you are hereby directed to open the publick letters, and take private copies of them in your own hand only, before you forward them to me.

And as the hurry I write your order in allows me no time for considering what might be further necessary, that must be referred to your prudence to supply where you find it necessary for his Majesty's service.

And whereas the council of war of land officers have given it as their opinion, that it is not consistent with his Majesty's service to proceed on the intended enterprize, and that it should be therefore laid aside; you are therefore hereby required and directed, on meeting with Capt. *Rentone* of the *Rippon*, coming hither with a convoy of transports, to acquaint him therewith, and to give him orders to ply up with his said convoy as far as *Point Canoa* or the *Arenas*, if the weather be favourable for it, and then to direct them to make the best of their way to *Port Royal* harbour, and then to cruize himself to windward of *Carthagena*, or anchor in the *Playa Grande*, for intercepting any thing going into *Carthagena*, till I shall come up to join him in that station; and you will stop in the harbour all that were under orders for coming to join me here. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 31<sup>st</sup> of *March* 1742.

To Capt. *Laws* of the *Greenwich*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

AS there are some reports of the *Spanish* squadron at the *Havanna*, intending to come through the gulph for *Hispaniola*, which may be for joining other squadrons that may be expected from *Europe*, either of *Spain* or *France*, the continuance of whose friendship seems growing very doubtful:

Your speedy return to your station of cruizing to windward of *Port François*, is become of the utmost importance to his Majesty's service for the preservation of the fleet

fleet and forces, and the island of *Jamaica* too, as my having the earliest information of their motions may be of the utmost consequence for the preservation of the whole.

You are therefore hereby required and directed, if these orders should find you not sailed from *Port Royal* harbour, not to lose a moment's time in proceeding to sea in execution of these and my former orders, and carefully watching to procure the earliest and best intelligence in your power; and on certain advices of the arrival of either *Spanish* or *French* squadron in those parts, you will make the best of your way for bringing me information of it in the harbour of *Porto Bello*; and as this point of intelligence is to be your principal view, and may be of the utmost consequence to his Majesty's service, you are carefully to attend to it at your peril. And as your former orders limited your cruize to the first of *May*, I now judge it for his Majesty's service to enlarge it to the 20th of *May*, or your sooner meeting intelligence for my information. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 31st of *March*, 1742.

To Capt. *Cusack* of the *Litchfield*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**I**N addition to the general orders first given out by me to Capt. *Grant*, and made the general rule for the conduct of all succeeding Captains that command the guard in pursuance of the resolution of the general council of war, for preserving inviolably to the magistrates, clergy, and inhabitants of the town of *Porto Bello*, an entire freedom for their persons and properties, as long as they shall continue to act under a grateful sense of our Royal Master's clemency towards them:

As some causes of complaint have been given to them by those commanding the detached guard without the town, to prevent the like for the future:

You are to give orders to the officer that commands that advanced guard lying just without the town, upon the *Panama* road, to suffer every inhabitant and their servants freely to bring into the town whatever they will, and to pass themselves or their servants for fetching from their plantations the supplies they stand in need of. But you are to take care not to permit any beast of burthen to go out of the town, or any burthens to be carried out of the town without a particular license for it from me, or Gen. *Wentworth*,

L



worth, in which case you are to keep such licenses for your justification in having done so. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 2d of *April*, 1742. *E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Charles Rippington* commanding the detachment sent from the *Kent* this day, to be left for a standing order to the respective Captains that command the guard at the custom-house as they relieve each other.

By, &c.

Whereas the bearer, Capt. *Hall*, commanding one of the trading sloops from *Jamaica*, has contracted with some of the inhabitants of *Porto Bello* for one hundred seroons of cocoa, which being a trade prohibited by the *Spaniards*, for which they would be liable to severe penalties, makes it necessary they should deliver it to Capt. *Hall* in the night :

As the encouragement of such private trade with the *Spaniards* is much for the interest of his Majesty's kingdoms, and conformable to my orders :

You are hereby required and directed to permit the said hundred seroons of cocoa to be privately shipped off to night by the said Capt. *Hall*, and in his boats, and from such part as he shall judge most convenient. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 2d of *April*, 1742.

To Capt. *Rippington* commanding the detachment from the *Kent*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

As I knew it to be of consequence to his Majesty's service, and of great utility to the general benefit of the trade of the kingdom, I have made it a constant rule, since my command in these seas, to cultivate a friendly correspondence between his Majesty's subjects and the *Spaniards* in the *Indies*, for preserving their good will in carrying on a clandestine trade with each other.

And the Magistrates of *Porto Bello* having expressed to me the streights they were in for several species of provisions, for cultivating that good correspondence, I proposed to them exchanging, for fresh provisions, such species of the King's provisions as they stood most in need of, and was bringing them to a friendly agreement about it, when a rough mes-

sage brought from you to them, demanding peremptorily a supply of provisions, put the magistracy under a great consternation, which on the first advice of I sent my Capt. and Lieut. *Lowther*, who had been treating with them about the exchanges, to give you an account of, and I was glad to find by their report, you had not given your messengers authority to make a demand in that rough manner; but as I take it to be of consequence to his Majesty's service, I cannot but recommend it to you to prevent any ill impressions from the imprudent liberty your messengers have taken contrary to your orders. I am,

*Bojoe, in Porto Bello Harbour,* S I R,  
*April 2, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

AS our last general council of war of the 31<sup>st</sup> of *March*, have referred it to us, to put the said general resolution in execution in such manner as we should think most advisable:

We have met and considered of it, and judge the safest and prudentest manner of doing it, to be sending them out by detachments; and as the *Fowey* is now wooded and watered for proceeding with the first detachment:

We desire you will be pleased to give your orders to the proper officers, having the direction of the transports and storeships under you, to prepare a detachment of them to be ready to sail under convoy of the *Fowey* on Monday morning next, or if they cannot get a detachment ready for sailing then, to let us know when they can get them ready, that no time may be lost in speedily putting in execution the resolution of the said general council of war of the 31<sup>st</sup> of *March*, 1742.

And as several negroes are upon the Crown's pay for the service of this expedition, we cannot but give it you as our advice, that it would be proper to distribute such of them as have been practised in boats or sloops on board such transports or storeships, as may be weakly handed, and, for their encouragement, to have the masters that want their assistance obliged to pay them additional wages for such their service, by which the Crown itself will be a gainer, in some respect, by saving the victualling of the said Blacks, who must be victualled for the time of such their service, by the respective masters of the trans-

ports and storeships, that stand in need of their assistance.  
We are,

*Byrne, in Porto Bello Harbour,  
April 3, 1742.*

Sir, your most obedient  
humble servants,  
*E. Vernon.  
C. Ogle.*

S I R,

I Have received your letter by Col. *Leighton*, and was much surprized you could have thought a report, one Gentleman should not expect to have been true of another, from a *French* servant of yours, that I should send directions to the Magistrates, not to permit any provision to be sold to you, should have gained such a credit with you, as to think it deserving of sending two Aid de Camps to me, to know if it was true, and, by your *Frenchman's* own account, I think it plainly appeared to me, he had told you what was false and without foundation; and I assure you, I should never have been capable of crediting such a report from a servant, in prejudice to any one; and finding you had done so, put me so much out of temper, that I might say, this was a very imprudent conduct on your part, and to have added, that to your inexperience, injudiciousness, and unsteady temper, was principally owing, his Majesty's affairs having prospered so ill in these parts; which I think better to repeat, and give under my hand, than to their being liable to any misrepresentations.

I assure you, Sir, I have neither bought any provisions, nor sent to market to buy any, since I have been here, or intend to do so, this present exchange of provisions arising, as I mentioned to you before, from the magistrates and inhabitants mentioning to me the distress they were in for provisions, mentioning flower, rice, and salt meat; upon which I told them, I could not sell the Crown's provisions, but I would propose it to them as an expedient, that might equally serve them, that if they would supply such a quantity of hogs, or black cattle, as they thought they could conveniently spare, they should be repaid in the species of provision they desired; and I appointed persons to regulate the prices each were to be valued at; so this was rather a favour done them, at their request, than any demand on my part.

I will have none of the provisions for my own table, but it is placed to the Crown's account, to replace the stores, I order to be issued from the ships in repayment; I ordered two of the hogs for your disposal yesterday, and one of the  
black

black cattle shall be sent to your disposal, when they come off; and I cannot but think it would be much for his Majesty's service, that you should order the officers in the transports not to be sending to demand provisions, as I think it of great consequence to his Majesty's subjects, to cultivate a good understanding with those, who have always had a willingness to encourage a private trade with us.

I hope I shall always live under a just sense of every Gentleman's acting towards me, and am sorry I have been more unsuccessful in preserving a good correspondence with you, than any Gentleman I ever had to act with before.  
I am,

*Boyne, in Porto Bello Harbour,  
April 4, 1742.*

Sir, your most obedient

humble servant,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed immediately to make the signal, for all masters of merchant men, and to acquaint all masters of transports and storeships, that you shall be ready to put to sea to morrow morning to convoy such transports and storeships that shall have got themselves in condition to proceed with you, if you shall find by Mr. *Wallace*, agent of the transports, a number of them will then be ready to proceed with you, and you will acquaint the said masters of transports and storeships that you will govern yourself in all signals necessary to be made by you, whilst they are under your convoy, by the same signals as were delivered to them by Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, on their first coming out, which they are to be very careful to observe accordingly, which you will issue an order for under your hand to all such as shall give in their names to you, as designing to sail under your convoy, in the annexed form, and you are carefully to convoy them up safely as high as *Point Canoa*, or the *Arenas*, if the weather be moderate for it, and in your said orders you will add, that upon your having thus seen them in safety beyond *Carthagena*, or as high as *Point Canoa*, or the *Arenas*, you will then make them the signal for their stretching off and pushing over for *Jamaica*, as they will be out of danger of any enemy, and have only to guard against falling in on the back of *Pedro* shoals, if they should meet a lee current, which they will have their observation, their lead, and a good look out, for their preservation against, as on the windward part there is soundings, a good way off; which signal for their leaving you may be a jack hoisted at your  
1 main



main top gallant mast, with a gun, and after having seen them so far to windward as *Point Canoa*, or the *Arenas*, and made them the signal as aforesaid, you will look out for Capt. *Rentone* in the *Rippon*, off *Point Canoa*, or in the *Playa Grande*, and, putting yourself under his command, to cruize under his orders, till my coming up to join you, and you will deliver him the orders you have for him from me. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Porto-Bello Harbour*, April 4, 1742. *E. Vernon.*  
To Capt. *Tucker* of the *Fowey*.

By, &c.

THE council of war of land officers having given it as their unanimous opinion, that it is not consistent with his Majesty's service, to proceed in the intended expedition, and that therefore it should be laid aside :

The first detachment of transports and storeships is sent to sea under the convoy of Capt. *Tucker* in the *Fowey*, who has my orders for convoying them beyond *Carthagena*, and as high up as *Point Canoa*, or the *Arenas*, if the winds be moderate enough to permit it, and then to make them the signal for stretching over for *Jamaica*, and afterwards himself to look out for you, and put himself under your command.

And you are to continue cruising off *Carthagena* till I shall come up to join you, for intercepting any thing getting into that harbour, and keeping a watchful eye on the motions of any squadrons of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, or others ; and, in case of discovering of them, you are, with the ships under your command, to endeavour to join me, in my passage, and give me the earliest advice.

And as no one better knows the track we must be coming in, I leave it to your prudence, to take the course you judge properest for falling in our way, recommending it to you, not to be running to leeward in the night, unless pressed to it by the enemy. For, &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne* in *Porto-Bello Harbour*, this 4th of April, 1742. *E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Rentone*, Commander of his Majesty's ship the *Rippon*.

By, &c.

WHEREAS it is in our present circumstances of the utmost importance to his Majesty's service, to keep the few of the King's ships we have now in a body, in complete

plete condition for service, as we may be expecting a superior force of the enemy's to obstruct our return; and as the security of his Majesty's island of *Jamaica*, and all our national trade in these parts, depends upon our being able to support ourselves against the attack of any enemy attempting to obstruct our passage:

And as in such circumstances no seamen can be spared from his Majesty's ships, in their very low condition in that respect, and as there are numbers of Blacks hired for the service of this expedition, the principal remaining part of which is. to conduct the transports and store-ships safe back to *Jamaica*:

You are therefore hereby required and directed to supply all transports and storeships, that may stand in need of men, with such part of the said Blacks, as may be most proper for their service, and not to let the said Black transports and storeships sail, till you have draughted from them all the Blacks that may be required for that purpose; and as this is of the utmost importance to his Majesty's service, you are not to fail in the due execution of it, as you will answer to the contrary at your peril; and you will appoint the wages the masters are to pay for the service of the said negroes, they require, which can be stopped out of their pay, if they omit performing their promise, by your transmitting proper accounts of it to the Navy-Board. For. &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello Harbour*, 1742.

E. Vernon.

To Mr. *Wallace*, his Majesty's agent  
for transports.

By, &c.

AS the magistrates, inhabitants and neighbours of *Porto Bello* have had recourse to the clemency of his *Britannick* Majesty, my Royal Master, for being continued under the same protection they formerly enjoyed, with assurance of their readiness to submit themselves to any orders I should give them:

As they are now, as they requested, under the protection and orders of my Royal Master:

And knowing it to be for the mutual advantage of the subjects of both Monarchies, to have a free intercourse of trade and commerce with each other, for what they may mutually stand in need of;

I do hereby order and direct you to publish in the town of *Porto Bello*, that a mutual intercourse of trade and commerce

merce be freely exercised between the inhabitants and neighbours of *Porto Bello*, and the subjects of his *Britannick* Majesty, for the time they continue under protection of the arms of his *Britannick* Majesty, for the mutual advantage of each other; free from all duties, and exempted from all penalty whatsoever, strictly commanding every one not to intermeddle in giving the least interruption to it at their peril. For, &c. Given under my hand and seal on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, in *Porto Bello Harbsur*, this 7th of *April* 1742.

To the *Alcalde* and *Corrigidore* of  
the city of *Porto Bello*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**Y**OU are hereby required and directed, immediately to make the signal for all masters of merchant men, and to acquaint all masters of transports and storeships, that you shall be ready to put to sea to morrow morning to convoy such transports and storeships that shall have got themselves in condition to proceed with you, and you will acquaint the said masters of transports and storeships that you will govern yourself in all signals necessary to be made by you, whilst they are under your convoy, by the same signals as were delivered to them by Sir *Chaloner Ogle* on their first coming out, which they are to be very careful to observe accordingly, which you will issue an order for under your hand to all such as shall give in their names to you, as designing to sail under your convoy, in the annexed form, and you are carefully to convoy them up as high as *Point Canoa* or the *Arenas* if the weather be moderate for it, and in your said orders you will add, that upon your having thus seen them in safety beyond *Carthagena*, and as high as *Point Canoa* or the *Arenas*, you will then make them the signal for their stretching off and pushing over for *Jamaica*, as they will be out of danger of any enemy, and have only to guard against falling in on the back of *Pedro* shoals, if they should meet a lee current, which they will have their observation, their lead and a good look out for their preservation against, as on the windward part there is soundings a good way off; which signal for their leaving you may be a jack hoisted at your main top gallant mast with a gun, and after having seen them so far to windward as *Point Canoa* or the *Arenas* and made them the signal as aforesaid, you will then continue under the orders you have already received from me, by the *Fowey* of the 4th instant, for the service

services therein mentioned and to look out for the *Fowey* whose Capt. has my orders to put himself under your command, and to take him under your orders and command accordingly, and if you come up with him and his convoy, before he reaches *Carthagena*, you will take charge of the whole convoy under your care. For, &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour this 8th of *April* 1742.

To Capt. *Rentone* of the *Rippon*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have sent the first Lieut. of the *Boyne*, Mr. *Taylor*, to inform you of what passed last night, and this morning, in regard to the conduct and behaviour of Mr. *Balfour* an officer of the *Train*; the officer, that was upon duty in the first watch last night, should have accompanied him, but that he is absent upon duty: And as Lieut. *Taylor* has heard his report from him, and was an eye and ear witness of his insolent answers to me, this morning, and disobedience to my orders, he can fully relate the whole to you, which put me under a necessity to order the boat's crew to bring the madman on board, since he refused to obey my commands.

And as he has been employing himself in retarding the King's service, by preventing the ships sailing and can have no duty till his return to *Jamaica*, and having had his court martial for his insolent behaviour and disobedience to command; if you approve of it, he may take his passage in this ship, for example sake, or in any other you may think proper, being fully persuaded, you will judge with me, he ought to continue under arrest, till he has had his court martial. I am,

*Boyne*, in *Porto Bello* harbour,  
*April* 9, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Memorandum. Lieut. *Taylor* carried with him the two following certificates signed as under, and left them with the General.

These are to certify, that this morning about half past seven, being Friday the 9th of *April*, I heard Admiral *Vernon* call to the *Booth's* boat, with Major *Balfour* in her, to go aboard his said ship and get her under sail; the said Major taking no notice, the Admiral repeated it again in the strongest terms, letting him know, that he was Admiral

M

*Vernon,*



*Vernon*, who spoke to him; answer was made, that I am Major *Balfour*, and will go aboard the General; the Admiral called to him again, and ordered him on his peril to come aboard here, which he refused, letting the Admiral know, he cared not a farthing for his proceedings.

*Boyne, in Porto Bello harbour,  
April 9, 1742.*

*Policarpus Taylor.*

These are to certify, that we heard the Admiral call to Major *Balfour* to come aboard, which he refused, and said he cared not a farthing for him.

*Boyne, in Porto Bello harbour,  
April 9, 1742.*

*John Doidge,  
Arch. MacNeill.*

Translation of an order sent to the Alcaldes and Justices, of the city of *Porto Bello* in Spanish.

*Collins* Clerk carpenter, aged 42, of a low stature, brown complexion, down look, had on a cap and blue jacket, and two negroe seamen, having deserted from the *British* squadron under my command, as likewise the three soldiers for whom I gave my order yesterday; and as those persons who receive favours ought always to be ready to demonstrate a grateful return, I do hereby command you, immediately to solicit the recovery of all the said deserters, and when found to deliver them to the Captain of the guard.

*Boyne, in Porto Bello harbour, April 9, 1742.*

To the Alcaldes and Justices of the city of *Porto Bello*. *E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas it might be a great retardment, to the proceedings of the squadron in a body with all convenient speed before *Carthage*, where an enemy may most probably be posting themselves for the meeting with us in our return; that the squadron may on such an incident be ready for entering on action:

You are hereby required and directed to take under your particular care and convoy the two remaining transports and the two victuallers, and to keep us company with them, if you find they can keep with us, and to repeat my signals while you do so, or otherwise to continue with them, under such a sail as they can keep company with you, and you will to morrow morning make the signal for all masters of such transports and victuallers; and to acquaint them that you shall put to sea with them on *Wednesday* morning the 14th of *April*, to acquaint the said masters of transports that

that you will govern yourself in all signals necessary to be made by you, whilst they are under your convoy, by the same signals as were delivered them by Sir *Chalmer Ogle*: And to the victuallers you will give the printed sheet signals, delivered you with the orders, which they are to be very careful to observe accordingly, which you will issue an order for under your hand to the masters of the said two transports, and two victuallers, in the annexed form; and you are carefully to convoy them up as high as *Point Canoa*, or the *Arenas*, if the weather be moderate, when you will make them the signal for stretching off, and pushing over for *Jamaica*, as they will then be out of danger of any enemy, and have only to guard against falling in on the back of *Pedro* shoals, if they should meet a lee current; which they will have their observation, their lead, and a good look out to preserve themselves against, as on the windward parts there is soundings a good way off; which signal for their stretching off may be your jack hoisted at your main top gallant mast with a gun: but in case you should neither meet me nor any orders by any of my cruizers, before your getting so far to windward, you may stretch off with them for *Jamaica* yourself, giving them notice they are not to expect your falling to leeward with them.

And in case of your meeting in your way any transports or storeships that may have fallen to leeward, from the two former convoys sail'd from hence, you are likewise hereby required to take them under your care, protection and convoy, and on your arrival at *Port Royal* you may expect my orders for your further proceedings. For, &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour, this 12th of *April* 1742.

To Capt. Knight of the *St. Albans*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas his Excellency Governor *Trelawney* has committed to the care of Capt. *Smee*, and *Robert Cragg*, an *Indian* boy, to be landed at the *Sambalas*, and sundry goods for the *Indians*; and that he is to touch at *Caledonia*, to endeavour to prevail with some *Indian* that speaks *Spanish* or *French*, to come back with him to *Jamaica*:

As the regaining a friendship with the said *Indians* may be of service to the kingdom in point of trade, and of great service to the Crown, if, by any means, the said *Indians* could be prevailed upon to assist his Majesty's forces in driv-

ing the *Spaniards* out of the Isthmus of *Darien*, either by assurances that the said country should be put into their free possession, and they supported in the government of it, or otherwise as shall appear most agreeable to them; you will particularly take care to cultivate a friendship with the *Indians* near the river *Mandinga*, as they might be of great service as guides in any future expedition.

And you are therefore hereby required and directed to take under your convoy and protection the *Endeavour* sloop Capt. *Smee*, and give him all needful assistance in the just and due performances of the services aforementioned, taking particular care to be satisfied, that the presents sent by Governor *Trelawney* be all prudently applied to the services above mentioned. And as the *Indians* by *Mandinga* river may be most serviceable, you will make your beginning in trying what can be done with them, and then proceed towards *Caledonia*; and I send Lieut. *Lowther* in the *Triton* sloop to be under your command and orders, and assisting to you in the services aforementioned. And you will likewise receive on board, and victual as your ship's company, till your return to *Port Royal*, Mr. *Innes*, who is desirous of being assisting to you in this service, and may be materially serviceable in drawing draughts of the harbours and channels you may have occasion to pass through; and having executed these orders to the best of your judgment for his Majesty's service,

You will then make the best of your way for *Port Royal* harbour in *Jamaica*, where you may expect my orders for your further proceedings. For, &c. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour, 13th of April 1742.

To Capt. *Dennis* of the *Experiment*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas Capt. *Dennis* in the *Experiment* has my orders to proceed immediately to sea, taking under his convoy and protection the *Endeavour* sloop Capt. *Smee*, who has, with *Robert Cragg*, committed to his care by his Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*, the execution of some important services with the *Indians* to cultivate their friendship, which may be of service to our trade, and great service to the Crown:

You are hereby required and directed to accompany him in his Majesty's sloop tender the *Triton*, and put yourself under

under his command, and to obey all such orders as he shall give you from time to time for his Majesty's service, assisting him as far as you can in the aforementioned services. For, &c. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne* in *Porto Bello* harbour, this 13th of April 1742. To Lieut. *Lowther* commanding his *E. Vernon.*  
Majesty's sloop tender the *Triton*.

S I R,

THIS vessel is dispatched by Capt. *Young* to me, with some private letters, that are come for me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, by merchantmen.

I find, they bring the news of Sir *Robert Walpole* having resigned all his employments, and being created Earl of *Orford*.

Those of the old ministry, that are to continue in the new ministry, are said to be my Lord Chancellor, the Duke of *Newcastle*, and my Lord *Wilmington*, who is to be at the head of the Treasury, and Mr. *Sandys* Chancellor of the Exchequer.

As I shall think it of consequence to his Majesty's service, to dispatch the *Vesuvius* fireship to *England*, as soon as I arrive in port, I desire you will be pleased, Sir, to have your letters in readiness to go by her, on our arrival.

I congratulate you on the favourable passage we have met hitherto, which, I hope, God's good providence will continue to us. I am,

*Boyne at sea, Apr.*

21, 1741.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

P. S. I send you inclosed, a news paper from *Cork*, that was sent me by the Gentleman who forwarded the letters.

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

By, &c.

WHEREAS it does not appear by your account that all your convoy have yet stretched over for *Jamaica*:

You are hereby required and directed, to make the *Playa Grande*, before *Carthagena*, your station for anchoring a' nights, to be sure of keeping your station, and to stretch off and on in the day time, for meeting with the said missing transports, and storeships, both for their protection, and giving them the proper orders, for stretching over for *Jamaica*; and you are to continue on the said service



service for ten days, and then taking under your care such of them, as may be remaining with you; you will then make the best of your way for *Port Royal* harbour, for receiving my further orders, governing yourself in other particulars by the directions in my former orders. For, &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne* at sea, off *Point Canoa*, this 24th of *April*, 1742.

E. Vernon.

To Capt. Tucker of the *Fowey*.

My Lord Duke,

MY last letter to your Grace was of the 31st of *March* from *Porto Bello* harbour: And on the 1st day of *April* in the morning, Col. *Trelawney*, Governor of *Jamaica*, sailed for *Jamaica*, in the *Greenwich*, Capt. *Laws*, by whom I sent my letters for your Grace, to go home by the *Chester*, a duplicate of which will accompany this letter.

On the 31st at night, after I had closed my letter to your Grace, I received from Mr. *Wentworth* a paper, you have inclosed a copy of, entitled, reasons for laying aside the attempt on *Panama*; amongst which, he alledges for one, the failing of cutting off the Governor of *Porto Bello*, from retiring for *Panama*. As I well knew there was more probability of doing it, by having sent a detachment up the river *Cascaball*, than the idle one he and Mr. *Trelawney* had adopted for their rule of faith, before my return into *Port Royal* harbour, I went next morning myself above a mile and a half up the river *Cascaball*, where his party might have been in three hours after our anchoring; but when I advised him to it, he said it was impossible to make a disposition for the detachment going away that night; but I saw no difficulty in it. And on the back of the said reasons I have annexed the reports and opinions of the officers I carried with me.

And that, at all events, his Majesty may not want some information how his affairs have succeeded so ill in these parts, I cannot but say that, in my judgment, it has been principally owing to the inexperience, injudiciousness, and unsteadiness of Gen. *Wentworth*, of which, if I live to come home, I think I can sufficiently explain the particulars to his Majesty, whenever required.

I send your Grace likewise inclosed, a copy of a letter from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to me here, of the 31st of *March*, by which your Grace will see, Sir *Chaloner* advised General

ral *Wentworth* to have a council of war called, upon the receipt of Lieut. *Lowther's* opinion sent to him, when there was time for his returning to *Jamaica*, if he did not chuse to proceed; but he would proceed, though it plainly appears to me, he had resolved against landing, before he entered the harbour of *Porto Bello*. And many of his officers have at times thrown out, that the *West Indies* was no country for an army to make war in, though his Majesty's orders sent them out for that purpose.

There being some little misapprehensions, in the execution of the first orders I had given to Capt. *Grant*, by those that succeeded him upon duty, in *Porto Bello*; I added an explanatory order, for the advanced guard, directed to Capt. *Ripington*, and all that succeeded upon duty, of the 2d of *April*, which your Grace has inclosed a copy of.

And I send you likewise inclosed, a copy of a joint letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, to Gen. *Wentworth*, to let him know our opinion was for their proceeding in their return, by detachments, as fast as they could be got ready, and that the *Fowey* was ready to sail with the first detachment of transports and storeships, that should be ready, which we recommended might be Monday the 5th of *April*.

On Tuesday the 6th day of *April*, Capt. *Tucker* in the *Fowey* put to sea, with the first detachment of transports and storeships, consisting of twenty five sail, with a favourable windward current; and the same evening Capt. *Rentone* joined me here in the *Rippon*, with four sail of transports and storeships, and two victuallers, which are all that were missing, but the *Bmetta*, a transport that lost her main mast, and has long been in tow and under convoy of the *York*, having been seen together off *Coclee*, thirty leagues to leeward of this port, by one of our trading sloops, who says, they were then steering westward, by the mis-information of a *Dutch* trader, and the ignorance of their own pilot, but, I hope, they soon found their mistake, and that it will not be long before I shall see them.

By the letters Capt. *Rentone* brought me from Capt. *Young*, (who commands in the harbour) and his own report, the conduct of some masters of transports and storeships has appeared so contrary to his Majesty's interest, and the service they were hired for, that I thought it my duty to transmit a copy of their accounts of it to your Grace, as I shall to the navy board, that it may be enquired into what it arose from, before they are paid, which comes inclosed.

On

On the 7th of *April* I was joined here by the *St. Albans*, Capt. *Knight*, from her week's cruize off *Point Canoa*, without meeting with any thing.

On the 8th of *April* Capt. *Dennis* returned from his expedition to the *Chagre* and *Porto de Naos*, having anchored off the *Chagre*, the 31st of *March*, and got into the river with the three tenders that evening, and made prizes of a sloop, a schooner, and a bongo, lying within the mouth of the river, which they had great difficulty to enter, or ride there, by the rapidity of the stream, running down at the rate of three or four miles an hour, and bringing down great logs of wood and trees, that obliged them to haul close to the banks; they took in the bongo about fourteen hundred pieces of eight, and in a hut by the sloop (being designed for her cargo) on her being going to careen, four hundred and twenty serons of cocoa. The wind blowing right into the river, they could not put to sea till Saturday the 3d of *April*, when he went with his flotilla into *Porto de Naos*, and landed with forty men, and followed a path they found three miles and a half, but their guide finding himself then quite at a loss, they returned without being able to find a way to the fort at *Grotton*; and after having sounded and surveyed that bay, he weighed from thence on Wednesday morning the 7th of *April*, and anchored here with his flotilla and three prizes the 8th.

After Capt. *Dennis's* leaving *Chagre*, Capt. *Rentons* first falling in with *Chagre* with his convoy of transports on the 5th (the day before he came in here) saw the village of *Chagre* all in flames, which, I suppose, was occasioned by their judging him to be coming with a detachment of transports to land men and make a lodgment there, to prevent which, I imagine, the *Spanish* soldiers had orders to burn it.

By what I hear, our coming here has been providentially of service to Commodore *Anson*, it being said, it has occasioned their recalling to *Panama* the five ships that were said to be sailed from thence in quest of him.

And as a brigantine and three sloops of our *Jamaica* traders have put in here to take the advantage of trading at the town under our protection, as I thought it might be of advantage to them, and of service to the inhabitants of the town trading with them, I issued an order for publishing a free trade for the time they continued under his Majesty's protection, which I send your Grace inclosed a copy of.

And

And finding amongst the letters taken by Capt. *Dennis* in the *Chagre*, one of the 30th of *March*, N. S. that gives account of several particulars relating to Commodore *Anson*, I send your Grace inclosed a copy of the translation of it, and hope our being here will prove a providential security to him, if what I hear is true, that it has already occasioned their sending for their five ships back to *Panama*.

Four new six-pounder pieces of cannon having been discovered near the *Farnesian* battery, I immediately sent a party with sledge mauls, who knocked off the trunnions of them, and drove them into the muzzles, and spiked up the touch holes

On the 9th of *April* I got to sea the remainder of the transports and fireships under convoy of Capt. *Rentone* in the *Rippon*, with a favourable windward current for them.

And Lieut. *Lowther* having brought me intelligence, that they had some new carriages that were concealed in the very house I had been in up the river of *Cascaball*, on the 10th of *April*, by break of day I detached my own Capt. (*Watson*) with the Captains *Dennis*, *Douglass*, and *Forrest*, to command the detachment of canoos and boats, I sent with them up the river of *Cascaball*, and as the canoos only could get up so high as the house, the pinnaces lay for landing to support them, a little below them; they found the intelligence true, and made a bonfire of ten new carriages they found there, four of which were ready ironed, and they found the new iron for the other six, which they brought away with them, and no one ventured to molest them.

The same day came in here Capt. *Cotes* in the *York*, with the only missing transport the *Bonetta*, that had lost her mainmast, and having lost their way, I find they had been as far to leeward as the *Scuda de Viragua*; but I thank God they found their way to *Porto Bello* at last, and we shall soon refit the transport with a jury-mast, and have her ready for the sea again.

I had likewise the 10th in the evening a visit from one just come from *Panama*, having, as he said, been eight days in his journey by the badness of the road; I asked him, if the five *Spanish* ships were at *Panama* when he came away? He said, they were, and that the day before they had received advice that Admiral *Pizarro* was got to *Callao* with his ships, and that he was coming for *Panama*; but I will not answer for it, but he might be sent to bring



me this latter intelligence, though there is no improbability in it.

On the 11th having advice from Lieut. *Lowther* of the place they generally cut their timber at being *Punta Gorda*, between *Porto Bello* and *Porto de Naos*, I sent a detachment of three tenders under command of Capt. *Forrest*, with Lieut. *Lowther*, to destroy any ready cut timber they might have had there, but they found only the carpenters working-shed, and houses, and the chips of their work, as probably the carriages we destroyed were made there; so setting their huts on fire, they returned here; where I have since been joined by a transport that was thought to be returned to *Port Royal*, having lost company with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* ever since the 20th of *March*; and by the *Defiance* that was drove up by the eastern current, so I have gathered all my flock together.

And having got the *Benetta* transport fixed with a jury-mast, and refitted by the boatswain and carpenter of the *Boyne*, and the hands I sent with them, the two transports are put under convoy of the *St. Albans*, Capt. *Knight*, together with the two victuallers.

And Capt. *Dennis* in the *Experiment* I dispatch to sea, with Lieut. *Lowther* in one of my sloop tenders, under the orders I send your Grace inclosed a copy of, for endeavouring to regain the friendship of the *Indians*, made a sacrifice of by the treachery of this Capt. *Smee*, whom Governor *Trelawney* sent his presents by, for he seized of them on board his sloop, and sold them for slaves at *Jamaica*; but my officers will watch him so closely, that he will not dare to play any tricks now; and though I fear he is far from an honest man, it is certain he is a very good pilot; and I know Capt. *Dennis's* diligence and experienced seamanship will make us some good pilots on this occasion for any future services this way; for I am of opinion with the president of *Panama*, that on being furnished with good guides, the moving for attacking *Panama* should begin at the river *Mandinga*; and by all that I can hear they have been doing, I think they have been labouring at their destruction, rather than their defence.

My convoys detached, I shall move up for *Carthagena* in a body with our two flags, eight sail of the line of battle (two of eighty guns, two of seventy guns, and four of sixty) with three fireships, and the two hospital ships; and I have Capt. *Rentone* in a sixty gun ship to windward of me, and Capt. *Knight* in a fifty gun ship coming after me with the rear of the transports.

And

And having detached all my convoys before me, and seen the trading sloops out too, I put to sea my self from *Porto Bello* harbour the 14th of *April*, having a favourable day, for getting all my ships well out into the sea before night.

I have already mentioned to your Grace, my having appointed Lieut. *Lowther*, a fifth Lieutenant to the *Boyne*, that he might be at hand for attending all services, either of the fleet or army, as he might be wanted for, and am persuaded, your Grace will approve of what I have done, as most for his Majesty's service, as I doubt not but my Lords of the Admiralty will too; but as it is one above the established rules of the navy, I am doubtful but their Lordships may think it may require an order of council, for their approving of it, which, I am persuaded, if it should be thought necessary, your Grace will think it very just, he should be approved and paid accordingly; for as he neither wants experience, judgment, nor resolution, so I think he has an hearty good will to serve his Majesty faithfully and diligently.

I came up with Capt. *Knight* and his convoy, in my way up, and on the 19th in the evening made the island *Fuerta*, on the eastern side of the gulph of *Darien*; and on the 23d got off *Carthagena*, and saw all was as I had left it there, and saw the new works they were making at the *Pastilio*.

On the 24th I was joined by the *Rippon* and *Fowey* off *Point Canoa*; Capt. *Rentone* informed me, he had seen all his convoy as far to windward as they desired, and they were stretched over for *Jamaica*. And Capt. *Tucker* informed me, he had convoyed fourteen of the heaviest sailors of his convoy as high as the *Arenas*, and they were stretched over for *Jamaica*; and that ten sail went away from him to windward, soon after his getting out of *Porto Bello*; and as we met no one of them in our way, I conclude they got to *Jamaica* first of any, with the breach of their orders for keeping with their convoy. But lest any might be crippled and behind, by any accident, I left the *Fowey* under orders for cruizing for ten days off *Carthagena*, to be in the way for picking up any that might be disabled.

On the 25th I was joined by the *Lyon* and *Seaborse* (my windward cruizers) who had chased ashore to windward of *Santa Martha*, a sloop laden with ammunition, and provisions for *Carthagena*; but as they had run her on a ledge

of rocks, they could save but little out of her; and having done that, they set her on fire and burnt her.

And on the said 25th discovering a brigantine, that came pretty near us, by the hazy weather, steering for *Carthagera*; I detached the *Rippon* and *Seahorse* in chase of her, and hope they may have come up with her, as I believe, if they do, I shall have the latest advices from *France* by her, as we judge her to be a brigantine employed in the trade of supplying *Carthagera* with ammunition, provisions, and intelligence. And the *Fowey* will have a chance for her, if she escapes them.

Being now stretching over for *Jamaica*, and in no likelihood of meeting any more intelligence in our passage, I chuse to close my letter to your Grace now, that it may be in a readiness to go by the *Chester*, if I should happily fall in far enough to windward for reaching *Port Royal* harbour, before she be sailed, or meeting with her at sea; but if not, I shall forward it immediately on my arrival, by the *Vesuvius* fire-ship, I have lying clean in the harbour, for that purpose; having, by my letter to Mr. *Wentworth* of the 21st instant, desired he would have his letters in a readiness for going by the same occasion. I am,

My Lord Duke,

your Grace's most devoted

and obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

*P. S.* On the 30th of *April* in the evening, I made the keys upon *Pedro* shoals, falling in upon them into ten fathom water, between the keys and *Portland* rock, having then with me Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and all the ships and vessels that sailed with us from *Porto Bello*; and those also that sailed before us under Capt. *Knight's* convoy, and the cruizers that joined me, except the *Fowey*, detached to cruize for ten days off *Carthagera*, and the *Seahorse*, that continued her chase after the brigantine.

And as I know I must have a hurry of business on my hands, on my coming in with a crazy squadron, full of complaints, I judge it expedient to seal up my letters now, to have leisure to attend them, and to leave to a fresh letter the informing your Grace of all necessary occurrences, upon my arrival in port; of which, I hope the favour of hearing from your Grace will be one, your last being of the 31st of *October*.

*Byne*, off of *Pedro* shoals,  
May 1, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

My

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 30th of *April*, which this accompanies, to inform your Grace, that after struggling for two or three days to weather *Pedro* shoals, I found myself obliged by the lee current to bear away, and cross over the leewardmost part of those shoals, and on the 5th of *May* got over to *Jamaica*, falling in a little to leeward of *Point Pedro*, having then with me Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and the whole squadron of his Majesty's ships, the victuallers, and some of the transports; but we found the leeward current still strong against us; so that it was the 11th before I could beat up as high as *Aligator Pond*; but finding I could get anchor ground a little to windward of the *Reef*, that lies off there, and the weather looking dirty to seaward, I made the signal, and anchored there with my division that evening. But Sir *Chaloner* being to leeward of that shoal, kept the sea with his division, and losing ground that night, bore up for *Bluefields* next day. I continued at anchor till the 13th in the morning, when the weather breaking up, I weighed and anchored again that evening off *Round Hill*, and weighed from thence the 14th, and anchored again the 15th in *Withywood Bay*, where Mr. *Wentworth* chose to land and go for *Spanish Town*.

And in *Withywood Bay* I met Capt. *Herbert* with one hundred and ninety two of his officers and ships company in a prize sloop, having lost his Majesty's ship *Tyger* on the shoals of *Tortuga* keys, on the coast of *Florida*, on the 13th day of *January* last; which makes it necessary I should send your Grace inclosed a copy of my orders to Capt. *Herbert*, which, you will find, were for his cruising between *Cape Corientes* and the *Camanes*; so that it was to his breach of his orders this misfortune owes its origin, in carrying the ship to a station of his own chusing, near an hundred leagues from that I appointed him; and I should never have thought of sending a ship to cruise in that station whilst I knew the *Spanish* squadron under Don *Rodrigo de Torrez* was at the *Havanna*, the *Tortuga* being but little to leeward of that port.

I send your Grace likewise a piece of intelligence from his Lieutenants examination of the prisoners they took off *Cape Corientes*; by which it appears, that the *Spanish* squadron was at the *Havanna* the 28th of *December*: and by a parley they had with the officers of a *Spanish* sloop, in the latter end of *Feb.* last (whom, I believe, thought they



they would have surrendered to them) they acquainted them, the *Spanish* Squadron was still at the *Havanna*. But very probably they put to sea soon after they had advice of my being sailed for the main continent; as, to be sure, part of their view in continuing at the *Havanna*, was covering *La Vera Cruz*.

Capt. *Herbert* lost his ship on his new chosen station the night of the very day he first arrived there, being the 13<sup>th</sup> of *Jan.* last, where he saved all his people on one of the *Tortuga* keys, raised batteries for securing themselves there, and mounted 28 of his cannon on them, saved most of their provisions for their subsistence, and many stores, and was obliged to continue there above two months, till it pleased God's good providence to favour them, in the taking a sloop by their boats thirty leagues from them on the *Florida* shore, by which, and a schooner, he was enabled to come away with all his people, after having rendered the guns unserviceable, and burnt and destroyed all the stores they could not bring away with them.

I have complaints from Capt. *Herbert*, desiring a court martial against his Lieutenant of marines, for mutinous proceedings; and against his second and third Lieutenants, for not doing their duty in boat service against a *Spanish* privateer, he sent them to attack, by which they failed of success; and when I get to *Port Royal*, shall hold a court martial for enquiring into these proceedings.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of *May* I weighed from *Withywood*, and had on the 17<sup>th</sup> got so well up with *Portland*, and well to the southward of it, that if the breeze had come at east, or to the southward of it, I had a fair prospect for weathering *Portland*, and getting into *Port Royal*; but the wind came up at N. E. and blew a mere fret of wind, with continual heavy rains, and by night, it being extreme thick weather, obliged me to make the signal, and lye to under a mainsail all night, which by next day morning had drove us near as far to leeward as *Point Pedro*; and continuing to blow hard, and look very greasy to windward, I judged it most prudent to bear away for *Bluefields*, whilst I had it in my power, lest I should be driven to leeward of the island, and accordingly anchored there with all my division on the 18<sup>th</sup>; and the *York*, of Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* division, came in after me, as have done the victuallers and several transports; and this morning I see Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and his ships (that sailed from hence the 15<sup>th</sup>) a little to leeward, plying up to come in here; and this  
has

has proved a true Saturday's moon to us; much bad weather and many cross accidents.

I found here in a sloop the remainder of Capt. *Herbert's* officers and ship's company, so, I thank God, they are all come safe, which will be a very seasonable recruit to us. And I think it a very happy providence, that this adverse wind and weather did not take us on the main continent, where such a dispersion might have been fatal to many of the transports.

I have had one of my tenders in at *Port Royal*, that came back to me at *Withywood*, by which I learnt the *Fowey*, *Seaborse*, and *Experiment*, with Lieut. *Lowther*, were all arrived in port; and that Capt. *Dennis* had brought some *Indians* over with him, but I have yet no letter from him.

But thinking it of consequence, to hasten my letters by express to your Grace, for his Majesty's information, for fear of farther delays in getting up with the Squadron, I send my letters for your Grace by land for *Port Royal*, with orders for the *Vesuvius* fireship putting to sea with them immediately, and the Captain's waiting on Mr. *Wentworth* for his letters, who has had long notice from me for having them ready.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* in the *Cumberland*, with the *Kent*, *Montague*, and *St. Albans*, are anchored here this evening; and his fireship and the two hospital ships are in sight without.

As I can recruit our water here quickest, I am doing that, and waiting the end of this boisterous moon, for a more favourable passage to *Port Royal*; where I send all necessary orders, by the express that goes with this letter, to be proceeded with directly by the *Vesuvius* fireship, that lies ready clean for that purpose. I am,

Boyne, at *Bluefields*,  
May 19, 1742.

My Lord Duke,

your Grace's most devoted  
and obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

ON Monday morning the 17th I was got about eight leagues south from *Portland*, and had the breeze came in to the southward of the east, had a prospect of weathering all, and fetching into *Port Royal*, but instead of that, it proving a very hard gale of wind at N. E. with continued heavy rains, and very thick weather, I was obliged

to bring to under a mainfail all night, which by next morning had drove me near as far to leeward as *Point Pedro*; and the gale continuing, and looking black and dirty to windward, I bore away for anchoring here before night, lest another night might have drove me to leeward of it; and as the weather continues unpromising, I have sent my first Lieut. Mr. *Taylor* with my dispatches for *England*, and Capt. *Tomson* his orders for proceeding immediately to sea with them, as their getting early home is of importance for his Majesty's service.

And you are hereby required and directed to supply Capt. *Tomson* with sufficient seamen for navigating him home, completing him to his complement from the *Princess Louisa*, if she has more than her lowest complement, which is two hundred and forty, that would be most agreeable to the men, as the *Princess Louisa* will go a thorough convoy to *England*, at any time the merchants shall desire it in next month; and when you know the time they desire it, you will direct Capt. *Young* to put up publick notices at the three towns of the time of his sailing, as is usual on like occasions; and if there be not sufficient men above that number in the *Princess Louisa*, you will supply it from late imprest men, or otherwise as your prudence shall suggest to you to be most for his Majesty's service.

And to provide against contingencies, Lieut. *Taylor* carries with him an order to command the *Vesuvius* fireship, in case of Capt. *Tomson's* death, or inability to proceed by sickness; and should a Lieutenant or any warrant officer be wanting, you will send to proceed in their room any Lieutenant whose want of health or business may require his desire to go home in her, and the like of any warrant officer desiring the same, letting them know in such case I will send their commissions or warrants after them, and you will direct a survey, in case it be of a warrant officer.

And you are likewise to direct the *Fowey* and *Experiment* both to be preparing for the career by the *Alderney* hulk, and to be getting your own ship and the *Tilbury* completely watered and victualled for four months, that you may be ready for proceeding to sea, soon after my arrival in port.

And as you mention the merchants having applied to you for a convoy for seeing their trade safe through the windward passage, I send you inclosed an order for Capt. *Durell* proceeding to sea convoy to them on any day they shall desire, but you may let them know, they may have

have the *Princess Louisa* for a thorough convoy to *England*, soon after my arrival in port, if they will please to wait for that; and as this Saturday's moon is almost at an end, I hope it will not be long first.

Pray forward the completing the wharf at the *Alderny* hulk, and the other small ones for taking guns and stores on shore, as fast as may be, as they will be most wanted for present use.

As will the shed that is framing to be set up without the yard, for repairing of our boats, which should be well strengthened with beams for laying a floor on it, for putting small stores in security under the roof, and lodging men that have the care of them; where there are three or four abreast, as in the yards, they will be a mutual support to each other, and will all be wanting.

And pray desire Mr. *Hinde* to forward the hospital all he can. If the *Deptford* storeship be on the other side the *Narrows*, I would have her continue there, having in view to post her at the *Rock River*, for lightening ships of their guns, that want caulking, and new sheathing a few strakes under the wales, and cannot be careened. I am,

*Boyne*, at *Bluefields*,  
May 19, 1742.

S I R,

your most humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Capt. Laws of the *Greenwich*.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed to keep a mile a head of his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, by night and by day, till our making the island of *Jamaica*, and to keep your lead going in the night; and when you discover any thing, either by eye or soundings, that you may judge it necessary to tack from, you will immediately make the tacking signal, and tack from it, which I will take care to repeat. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne* at sea the 28th of *April*, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Rentone* of the *Rippon*.

By, &c.

WHEREAS it is of importance to his Majesty's service, that the several packets you have now sent you for his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, should come speedily to hand, for his Majesty's information:

And as you have been already ordered to complete your victualling for four months, for such your voyage, I have

O

now



now sent orders to Capt. *Laws*, to furnish you with such a supply of seamen as shall be wanting:

On being supplied with which, you are hereby required and directed to put to sea with all possible expedition; and to make the best of your way for the first port in the channel of *England* you can most conveniently reach; from whence you will set out post for delivering the packets for his Majesty's Secretary of State into his own hands, being the principal view of your voyage, and after delivering them, and waiting till he shall think proper to permit you to proceed to deliver my letters to the first Lord of the Admiralty, and to the Secretary of the Admiralty, you will then forward the letters to the other publick boards, and apply to their Lordships for their orders for your further proceedings.

And though I have no publick letters later than the 31<sup>st</sup> of *October*, yet if you should find his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle* promoted to the viceroyalty of *Ireland*, (as is reported) and another Secretary of state appointed in his place, you are in such case to deliver your letters directed to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, to the said Secretary of State succeeding his Grace in that important trust; and you will do the like with those directed to the Right Hon. Sir *Charles Wager*, in case there should have been any change at that board.

And you are immediately on the receipt of these your orders, to give advice to Gen. *Wentworth* of the time you propose to sail, and that you have orders to take care of any letters he sends you, or to receive on board and victual any officer and his servants that he may chuse to send them by; but you are not to delay your sailing when you are ready.

And you are to give receipts for me, to my Lieut. or the commanding officer for the packets that you will receive from him.

And you are to use all possible diligence in the execution of these orders, as you will answer the contrary at your peril. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, at anchor off *Bluefields* this 19<sup>th</sup> of *May*, 1742.

To Capt. *Tomson*, commander of his Majesty's fireship the *Vesuvius*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**W**Hereas the late lee current and blowing weather have dispersed the transports and storeships:

Left there should be any yet to leeward of us, you are hereby required and directed with his Majesty's ship the *St. Albans*,

*Albans*, under your command, together with the *Elizabeth* sloop tender, of which the Lieutenant has orders to put himself under your command, to continue at anchor here, for four days after my being sailed away to morrow (as I intend) to give convoy, protection, and assistance to all such transports and storeships, as may come in here and stand in need of it.

And as many put in off *Black River*, you will anchor off there, and give your orders to all you find there, for making the best of their way to *Port Royal* harbour, as they will answer at their peril for what his Majesty's service shall suffer through their negligence or delay, and you will do the like at *Withywood*.

And as there are said to be many seamen seduced to desert the transports, by the masters of merchant ships, loading at *Black River*, you will strictly search such merchant ships, both for such as have deserted his Majesty's service here, and those that deserted from the said transports; and to desire the magistrates to issue their warrants for apprehending our deserters, assuring them the rewards for all apprehended, and delivered to you, shall be paid agreeable to former advertisement.

And you will then proceed to *Port Royal* harbour for the receiving my orders for your further proceedings; in all things else, referring you to the directions in my former orders; for which this shall be your warrant. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, at *Bluefields*, this 23d of *May*, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. Knight of the *St. Albans*.

S I R,

I Believe the uncertainty we are in for gaining our passage to *Port Royal*, will engage you to think me in the right in the resolution I have taken, to proceed thither by land, to prevent any inconveniencies arising to his Majesty's service through my absence.

And heartily wishing for the pleasure of meeting you speedily in *Port Royal*, I am,

*Boyne*, off of *Milk River*,  
*Jamaica*, June 16th,  
1742.

Sir, your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

Sir *Chaloner Ogle*.

P. S. If Capt. Knight brings you this be pleased to let him make the best of his way; because he is intended to clean by the *Alderney* hulk.

*E. V.*

By, &amp;c.

**W**Hereas the very uncommon obstruction we have met with, to our return to *Port Royal*, from a long continued leeward current, renders my presence there the more necessary, for giving proper orders to the ships there, several of which must now be cleaned and refitted for the sea, which making my present absence of prejudice to his Majesty's service, and having determined me to undertake the journey by land, from the first port of the island we can reach:

You are hereby required and directed to take the command of all the ships of our squadron, as you shall meet with them, and make the best of your way to *Port Royal* harbour with them, for our getting them refitted and re-victualled, for such further services as we may speedily expect his Majesty's orders for; all the ships being under the like orders for the present, if you should not happen to meet with them, so that this need be no retardment to your proceeding with all possible expedition with those you shall meet with in your way. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, off of *Milk River, Jamaica*, this 16th of *June*, 1742.

To Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, Rear Admiral of the *E. Vernon*.  
blue squadron of his Majesty's fleet.

By, &amp;c.

**W**Hereas you are furnished with the most experienced pilot, and may not meet a convenient opportunity for delivering the letters and orders you have from me for Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and will be the eldest Captain of my division, now Capt. *Cotterell* has his separate orders for making the best of his way for coming to careen his ship next at the wharf; as my absence will be no longer than till your arrival at *Port Royal* harbour:

You are hereby required and directed to continue making the signals, and proceeding with my division, with all possible expedition to *Port Royal* harbour, where his Majesty's service requires my going by land for giving the necessary orders to the ships there: But on Sir *Chaloner Ogle*'s coming up with you, you will obey his orders. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, off of *Milk River, Jamaica*, this 16th of *June*, 1742.

To Capt. *Watson*, of the *Boyne*.

*E. Vernon*.

S I R,

**T**HE very uncommon obstructions I have met with to my return with the squadron of his Majesty's ships to  
*Port*

*Port Royal*, from so long continued a leeward current, has forced me to take recourse to a land passage to *Port Royal*, lest his Majesty's service should suffer through my absence.

But as I have not any thing to inform you of, but our ships being much shattered in struggling against these leeward currents and strong breezes, and that I know my presence is speedily wanted at *Port Royal*, I leave this letter to acquaint you of my passing through for *Port Royal*, where I shall be proud of your commands. I am,

*Spanish Town, June*  
19th, 1742.

S I R, your Excellency's

most obedient humble servant,

His Excel. Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have your Excellency's letter of the 19th inst. delivered me at *Spanish Town* in my way hither, with the seven papers and two letters sent to you by Lieut. *Hodgson*, which I have directed copies to be taken of, and shall then return them to your Excellency.

I see by these letters, Lieut. *Hodgson* has but twelve men with him, so that there can be no apprehensions but his *Musquetto* Majesty or Capt. *Pitts* can sufficiently supply them with provisions as long as he has your Excellency's orders for continuing with them, and as to what your Excellency mentions, if there was occasion for sending them provisions it would be improper to do it, by the ship that carries the *Caledonian Indians* back again, as the way of going to the one is directly out of the way of going to the other.

The settling of *Ratan Island* is the subsisting resolution of a general council of war now, though it was laid aside for the scheme of Mr. *Wentworth's* and your Excellency's approbation.

I hope we shall all learn our Royal Master's pleasure by the Man of war speedily to be expected, but should she not arrive before Sir *Cbaloner Ogle's* coming into port, I think we should hold a general council of war immediately after his arrival, to consider of what is next to be done for his Majesty's service; and I send your Excellency inclosed a copy of our sentiments upon what was produced to us, and said to be an order from Mr. *Wentworth*.

I have had the *Indians* brought over by Capt. *Dennis* with me, and have assured them, the same ship should be ready to return with them on any day they desire, but they chuse to have six days to provide themselves with such things



as should be useful to them, and I intend Lieut. *Lowther* in a sloop shall accompany them likewise.

As by the papers you sent me, it appears his *Musquette* Majesty was determined against any expedition towards the *Chagre* till after *Christmas* next; and that what Lieut. *Hodgson* is now gone to assist him upon, is a compliment to him on an expedition of his own projecting, I am clearly in Lieut. *Hodgson's* sentiments, that they have not merited any pay, nor do I believe that they expect any, for having only expressed their apprehensions from your being coming amongst them; and Lieut. *Hodgson* you see, thinks none but Mr. *Pitts* had any inclination of proceeding on what you had proposed, which his being laid up with the sciatica had disabled him from likewise.

Your Excellency knows I have never entertained any favourable opinion either of Capt. *Lea's* capacity or veracity; and that I have expressed myself before you surprized, that our worthy friend Sir *Charles Wager* should have been deceived into a good opinion of him; and whenever any complaints are regularly convey'd to me, and a prosecutor appears to desire a court martial on him, I am sure I shall never refuse it. But your Excellency, who is a much better judge than I can pretend to be of the rule of evidence in courts of justice, know very well that Lieut. *Hodgson's* narratives of what other people told him, is no evidence at all in a court of justice. I am

Port Royal, June  
22, 1742.

Governor *Trelawney*.

your Excellency's

most obedient humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received your letter of the 19th instant, with the inclosed copies of letters from you to Mr. *Blakeney* and Gen. *Wentworth*, of the 13th and 31st of *May*;

And entirely approve of your applying to Gen. *Wentworth* as you propose for a further reduction, having always thought there were more transports retained in service than were necessary, and lamented it as a heavy and unnecessary expence to the Crown; and I think it the more so, as I know the King's ships will always stand in want of part of the forces to enable them to be in any condition for service in these seas. I am,

Port Royal, June  
25, 1742.

Mr. *Wallace* Agent for the transports.

S I R,

your very humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

S I R,

**T**Hough we have no publick letters by the arrival of the *Adventure*, yet we are persuaded you will join with us in thinking it is expedient, that the general council of war should assemble, to consider of what can be done for his Majesty's service, so as to be able to send some accounts home by the *Princess Louisa* Capt. *Young*, whom the merchants have now desired may have the day of her sailing prolonged to Thursday the first day of *July*.

And as Governor *Trelawney* is generally a little disorder'd on board a ship, we have assured him of our readiness to go to hold the general council of war at his house at *Spanish Town* on Monday morning next if he desires it; which we are persuaded of your readiness to oblige him in, and to bring Mr. *Blakeney* with you. But we have added, if it was indifferent to his Excellency, that the signal for the general council of war would be made on board the *Boyne* on Monday morning at eight o'clock, being the 28th instant. When we receive the Governor's answer we will advise you of it. We are,

*Boyne*, in Port Royal harbour,  
*Jamaica*, June 26, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servants,

*E. Vernon.**C. Ogle.*Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

**T**Hough we have no publick letters by the arrival of the *Adventure*, yet we are persuaded you will join with us in thinking it is expedient, that the general council of war should assemble, to consider of what can be done for his Majesty's service, so as to be able to send some accounts home by the *Princess Louisa*, Capt. *Young*, whom the merchants have now desired may have the day of her sailing prolonged to Thursday next.

And as I know your Excellency is generally a little disordered on board a ship, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I are very ready to oblige you in coming up to *Spanish Town* on Monday morning next, for holding the general council of war at your house, which we advised Gen. *Wentworth* of to day, as we doubt not he will approve of it; or should it be indifferent to you, the signal for the general council of war shall be made by eight o'clock on Monday morning next, on board the *Boyne*, and my boats shall attend you at the hour you appoint.

I have

I have just now received the favour of your Excellency's letter of yesterday, with advice of Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* commission and mine being in your Excellency's hands, which we will take the opportunity of qualifying ourselves for before you at this meeting. We are,

*Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, June 26, 1742.*

Sir, your Excellency's  
most obedient  
humble servants,

Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon,  
C. Ogle.*

S I R,

I Received last night a letter from Mr. *Trelawney*, that he would be in the way to meet us at a council of war in his house at *Spanish Town* on Monday next, so you will be pleased to bring Mr. *Blakeney* with you, and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I will endeavour to be there by nine o'clock in the morning.

I will not fail to enquire into what you mention about the *Experiment*; I know Capt. *Dennis* to be a good natured officer, and hope there has been no just occasion given for any to complain, which I shall not fail to redress if I find there has. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, June 27, 1742.*

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 19th of *May* from *Bluefields*, which I dispatch'd Lieut. *Taylor* up with by land, with orders to Capt. *Tomson* of the *Vesuvius* fire-ship (that I had lying clean in *Port Royal* harbour) immediately to proceed to sea with, and lose no time for speedily conveying the same to your Grace's hands; and by a ship that met him at sea off the west end of *Jamaica*, I have since learnt, that finding the lee current so strong against him, he had judged it the most expeditious way to bear away for going through the gulph; and if he has escaped falling into the hands of any of the *Spanish* Squadron from the *Havanna*, I doubt not but they will come safe to your Grace. The duplicates of those letters went home by some merchant ship of the *Seahorse's* convoy; having at the same time sent Capt. *Durell* orders for convoying such of the trade through the windward passage, as were too impatient to wait for the thorough convoy these letters go by, which is appointed to sail the 28th of this instant *June*. And  
Capt.

Capt. *Young* of the *Princess Louisa*, together with this letter, will bring your Grace the duplicate of my last from *Bluefields* of the 19th of *May*.

After supplying my ships with all the provisions I had with me in the two victuallers, (who had fortunately kept me company) and recruited our water, I put to sea on the 29th of *May* to beat up for this port, but still found the current very strong against us, so as even to have been driven to leeward of the island; but having by the 17th of *June* got into anchor ground off *Round Hill*, to leeward of *Withywood*, for fear his Majesty's service might suffer for want of my presence in this harbour, leaving the necessary orders behind me for Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and to all for proceeding to this port with all possible expedition, I went in my boat to *Withywood*, and proceeded by land to *Port Royal*, where I arrived the 20th in the morning, and found the *Montague*, *Worcester*, and *Strombolo* fireship here; the *Lion* got in the 21st, and on the 23d arrived here my ship the *Boyne*, with the *Grafton*, *Rippon*, *York*, *Defiance*, and the hospital ships. But Sir *Chaloner Ogle* with the *Cumberland*, *Kent*, *St. Albans*, and two fireships, are not yet in sight. But this struggling against a strong lee current and fiery breezes, has brought all my ships into a terrible shattered condition, which makes me impatiently long for the arrival of the convoy with the storeships, to be furnished with the necessary stores for refitting them as well as we can, with such conveniencies as we have for it.

I send your Grace inclosed a copy of the intelligence I had from Capt. *Ward*, who was appointed to cruize to windward of *Port Louis*, by which it appears no *French* Squadron was arrived in the latter end of *April*. And you have likewise inclosed a copy of Capt. *Stevens's* intelligence from *Carthage* of the 5th instant, of what they are doing in those parts, where they have been of late very sickly; and likewise of the intelligence he had by a *Spanish* sloop he took coming in for *Boca Chica* whilst he was there, who mentions the *Spanish* Squadron being still said to be at the *Havanna*, on her coming from *St. Jago de Cuba*. And that is likewise confirmed by our traders from the *South Keys*; of which I expect more particulars, on the return of Capt. *Broderick* of the *Shoreham*, daily expected from those parts.

The *Litchfield* appointed to cruize to windward off *Port François*, could never get into her station, for the lee current and strong breezes that have returned her shattered



into port. I have now four clean ships ready to send to sea, but having advice the *Adventure* and convoy may be daily expected, I am desirous of seeing what orders I may receive from your Grace before I send them to sea. But the merchants applying for the thorough convoy sailing on Monday the 28th instant, as I have assured them of my readiness to oblige them in what they desire, I am obliged to hasten the conclusion of this letter to go by her.

And having at *Bluefields* had brought to me by Colonel *Leighton*, a paper purporting an order for putting the troops into quarters in several parts of the island, which he desired my approbation of, I consulted Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon it, and we gave him our opinion, annexed to the order he produced to us, which I send your Grace likewise inclosed a copy of; and the difficulty we have had to collect the King's ships together into this port is the strongest evidence against dispersing the troops, from whence I apprehend no one good consequence was to be expected.

I send your Grace also inclosed a copy of the abstract of the proceedings of Capt. *Dennis* and Lieut. *Lowther* at *Caledonia*, and I am upon sending them both back thither with the said *Indians* according to the promise made them. These *Indians* seem an innocent inoffensive people, but do not promise for being of a very enterprising genius; however there may be much advantage from cultivating their friendship, as they can cut off the free communication by land from *Carthagena* to *Porto Bello*, and may be good guides on any future expeditions, and very assisting for procuring subsistence to undertaking any enterprize in those parts.

I thank God, the *Adventure*, Capt. *Draper*, got safe here with his convoy of storeships and victuallers on the 24th, which is a most seasonable relief, to enable us to set about repairing our shattered ships. But it was a most sensible mortification to me, to be disappointed of the favour of a line from your Grace, it being so long ago as the 31st of *October* since I had that favour last. However, to the best of my judgment and ability, I shall continue my utmost zeal and diligence for his Majesty's service, till I am relieved from the disagreeable situation I am in here.

The *St. Albans* and the fireship of my division came in the 23d and 24th, and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* in the *Cumberland*, with the *Kent* on the 25th, upon which Sir *Chaloner Ogle* joined with me in letters to Gen. *Wentworth*, and  
Gov.

Gov. *Trelawney*, to desire we may meet at a general council of war, to take into deliberation what is proper to be done for his Majesty's service, on Monday the 28th of *June*. And as the merchants have desired the convoy being delayed to the 1st of *July*, I hope to send your Grace inclosed a copy of the resolutions of that council of war.

On Monday the 28th of *June* we all met at Governor *Trelawney's* house in *Spanish Town*, and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of the resolutions and deliberations of the said general council of war. And I will take care, on my part, to be getting my ships in condition for the sea with all the expedition the means we have for effecting it will admit of, and shall have my cruizers out to supply all the windward stations within three or four days. I am,

Boyne, in *Post Royal* My Lord Duke,

harbour, *Jamaica*,

*June 30. 1742.*

your Grace's most devoted

and obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

My Lord,

HAVING during the time of my being in command here, communicated to the premier in the commission of the Admiralty (as being of his Majesty's most honourable privy council and in the secret of affairs) a particular narrative of all occurrences from time to time, I do myself the honour now of beginning to give your Lordship information of all my proceedings in like manner. And permit me from the high esteem I ever had for your Lordship, to congratulate you on your advancement to this high trust, on the due execution of which the prosperity of his Majesty's kingdoms so much depends; for which your Lordship's sincere zeal is well known, as well as your great abilities.

And there will accompany this the duplicate of my last letters to Sir *Charles Wager* of the 19th of *May* from *Bluefields*, my information of the changes at the Admiralty board being only from what I have seen of them in the *Gazette* and other publick papers, and private letters, having had no publick letters or orders later than the 31st of *October* last.

Boyne, in *Post Royal*

harbour, *Jamaica*,

*June 30, 1742.*

My Lord,

your Lordship's most

obedient humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Right Hon. the Earl of *Winchelsea*.

S I R,

**T**HE hurry I have been in for getting my letters ready to go by the last convoy (having so many publick offices to correspond with) prevented my sending you sooner a copy of the resolutions of our last general council of war of the 28th of *June*, which now comes inclosed.

Capt. *Law*s (who is going to cruize to windward with three sail under his command, for procuring us the earliest advices and intelligence of the enemy's motions) acquainting me he wants the aid of forty soldiers for his own ship, twenty for the *Adventure*, and ten for the *Spy*, I desire you will be pleased to let him be supplied with them, and give him your orders where to have his supply from the troops on shore, or those on board our ships, as he will be the bearer of this letter, and is to sail on Sunday next. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, July 2, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

**I** HAVE received your letter of this day's date by Capt. *Law*s, and a copy of the resolution of the last council of war of the 28th of *June*, which you mention, was inclosed in the letter he delivered you from me.

As to the *Americans*, if you will be pleased to give me only a day's notice when and where you would have them sent, I will give directions, that your desire in that particular shall be complied with punctually. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, July 2, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

By, &amp;c.

**W**HEREAS his Majesty's ship the *Experiment* under your command is now cleaned and refitted for the sea, you are hereby required and directed to complete your provisions to four months with all possible expedition for proceeding directly to sea, together with the *Triton* sloop under the command of Lieut. *Lowther* of the *Boyne*, who has my orders to put himself under your command, and to observe your orders.

And you are to receive on board your ship the *Indians* brought by you from the harbour of *Caledonia*, together with such presents as have already been made them, and likewise to receive the two hundred firelocks and ammunition

dition proportionable, that Gen. *Wentworth* will give orders for your being furnished with, and on board your ship, or the sloop, the produce of two hundred pounds in merchandize or liquors, as Lieut. *Lowther* will have orders for employing it. The said arms, ammunition, merchandize, and liquors, being designed to be employed in presents to the *Indians*, upon such terms and under such stipulations as shall be judged by you and Lieut. *Lowther* to be for his Majesty's honour and service, and the commercial interest of his Majesty's trading subjects, by engaging them to intercept all packets of letters coming or going between *Carthagera*, *Panama*, or *Porto Bello*, for delivering them to our cruizers when called for, and to encourage them in forming confederacies to attempt the same.

And on their entring into any treaty with you, and giving hostages for the due performance of it, you are hereby empowered to dispose of all or any part of such arms, ammunition, and presents, to the said *Indians*, in such manner as you and Lieut. *Lowther* shall judge expedient for the honour and service of the Crown, and commercial interest of his Majesty's subjects, agreeable to the terms of any treaty you shall make with them for the purpose aforementioned.

And after having landed the *Indians* there, and concluded with the King, or Chief, or Chiefs, of any neighbouring *Indians*, that shall come to treat with you such reasonable treaty as any of them may be desirous to enter into as aforementioned, and made all necessary remarks in regard to the pilotage of those harbours, and the communication within the keys to the channel going out by *Sambla's Point*, you will then, according to such intelligences as you shall meet with, proceed to cruize upon his Majesty's enemies where you shall judge most probable to annoy them, from the river *Chagre* to *Point Canoa*, apprehending after you have been off the river *Chagre* and looked into *Porto Bello*, that the most probable station for success will be cruising off *Carthagera* town, as by lying off there you will sooner see any thing coming from the sea, than they can discover you; but in the execution of these orders you may regulate yourself for cruising within the limits, according to the advices you may receive.

And you may continue cruising in the execution of these orders to the tenth day of *September* next, unless taking any considerable prize or vessel of force should render it necessary for you to come over with her yourself; but as you  
have



have but one Lieut. whose principal duty is in the preservation of his Majesty's ship, I can by no means approve he should be sent from the ship only where great numbers of men are necessary to be detached for bringing over securely any vessel of force ; but before your sending away any prize, you are carefully to conform to your general orders, to secure the hatches, and prevent all manner of embezzlement.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorised attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniard's* ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, wherever you shall meet with them on the seas, as you will all ships or vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica* this 3d of *July*, 1742.

To Capt. *Dennis* of the *Experiment*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**Y**OU are hereby required and directed to take upon you the command of the *Triton* sloop tender for the present cruize and service enjoined in Capt. *Dennis's* orders, and to put yourself under his command, and carefully to obey his orders agreeable to the general orders he has received from me, and to aid and assist him with your council and advice, in all points necessary for cultivating the friendship of the *Caledonia* *Indians*, agreeable to the instructions he has for that purpose from me, or what further you may receive from Gen. *Wentworth* or Gov. *Trelawney*. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica* this 3d day of *July*, 1742.

To Lieut. *Lowther* of the *Boyne*, appointed to command the *Triton* sloop tender for this present cruize.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**W**Hereas by my former order to you at *Porto Bello* on the 13th of *April* last, you were ordered to *Caledonia* for cultivating the friendship of the neighbouring *Indians*, in pursuance of which you brought over to *Jamaica*

*maica* with you four of the said *Caledonia Indians*, upon assurances of returning them to their country again, which you are now under orders for doing, and may in pursuance of your instructions have others of the said *Indians* to bring with you to *Jamaica*, as hostages for the performance of such stipulation as they may enter into a treaty with you upon :

You are hereby required and directed to continue to cultivate their friendship in a very civil treatment to them, and to give orders to your purser for the victualling of these you have already brought with you from thence to *Jamaica*, until your return of them to *Caledonia*, as likewise all such as shall return with you as hostages, or others, bearing them on a distinct list as *Caledonian Indians*, for being victualled as you do your ship's company, for cultivating the friendship of the said *Indians* agreeable to your instructions. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica* this 6th of *July*, 1742.

To Capt. *Dennis* of the *Experiment*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE received this morning by the hands of Mr. *Wallace*, your letter of yesterday, owning the receipt of the copy of the resolution of last council of war sent to you by Capt. *Laws*.

And I send you now inclosed a list of the number of *American* officers and soldiers at present on board the ships of his Majesty's fleet, amounting to four hundred and sixty eight, besides what may be in the *Seahorse* and *Vulcan* fire-ships not yet returned into port, all which shall be landed at what time and place you desire, either all together, or in such proportions at a time as you shall desire, on my having previous notice of it only the day before.

The proper convoy, for security and protection to those you shall chuse out to send on the *Rattan* expedition, shall be ready to proceed with them whenever you desire, one of which shall be the *Bonetta*, now clean, for speedy intelligence from thence. And I look upon my whole Squadron here in this harbour, in the same manner, a security to any settlement on *Rattan* island, as I am persuaded the *Spanish* Admiral thinks he cannot be better posted than he is at the *Havanna*, for the security of *La Vera Cruz*.

Twenty of the *Americans*, you will see by the inclosed list, are now on board the *Experiment*, ready to put to sea on

return

return with the *Caledonia* Indians, as soon as the arms, ammunition and presents design'd for the *Indians*, on concluding any treaty with us, are provided and sent on board; so must desire to know your pleasure as soon as possible, concerning the disposing of the *Americans* now on board that ship, which, I desire, in regard to the low condition she is in for want of men, may be immediately supplied with a detachment of thirty private men besides officers, in their stead, either from the shore, or those on board our ships here in harbour, as you shall think most proper.

As you know, Sir, how burthensom a charge that of transports is to the Crown in these seas, I have on all occasions given you my opinion for their being reduced into as narrow a compass as possible. And Mr. *Wallace* having by his letter of this day's date (delivered me together with your letter) represented to me by your order, that you are ready to give him orders for discharging such of the transport ships, as the service can spare, whenever I should signify what number of the forces his Majesty's ships may require, exclusive of the numbers that are there already. Not to give the least delay to so necessary a point of saving, for the Crown's service, I think (in regard to the daily decrease of our seamen, by death, and desertion from our hospitals, which in the midst of drunkenness, and large temptations given in the merchants service, we cannot sufficiently defend ourselves against,) I may at least venture to assure you, that, on our going upon any expedition, we can take on board the King's ships, and vessels in the Crown's service, three or four hundred men more than the present number of forces on board our ships.

Ever since my being in command here, my officers have had standing orders never to impress men out of any vessels bringing provisions hither from the northern colonies, for the service of the fleet or army; and do not believe there is one instance of a breach of those general orders.

And let any gentleman, or other person whatever, apply to me for a protection to bring beeves, sheep or live stock to this island, he shall never be refused it by me, on his application for it at any time; and I should be pleased to hear of any one undertaking it. But one thing, I am persuaded, you will agree with me, we should be on our guard against, that this should not be made a pretence for supplying the enemy with intelligence. I am,

Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, July 6, 1742.

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

Sir, your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon*.

S I R,

YOU having by letter of this day's date acquainted me, that you had Gen. *Wentworth's* orders to represent to me, that he was ready to give orders to you for discharging such of the transport ships as the service can spare, whenever I should signify what number of the forces might be wanted to serve on board his Majesty's ships, exclusive of those that are there already.

That any remissness of mine might not give the least obstruction to so desirable a work, of easing the Crown of that heavy burthen of unnecessary transports, I have acquainted Gen. *Wentworth* in my letter of this day's date, committed to your care to deliver him, that, on any future expedition, I can receive on board his Majesty's ships, or those in the Crown's pay under my command, three or four hundred more of the forces than we have at present, on board his Majesty's ships.

And though I have no publick orders for giving directions in regard to the transports, I must give it you as my advice, as most for his Majesty's service, to make this a rule to yourself in discharging transports out of the service, to begin with those who by drunkenness or wilfulness have been notorious in delaying and obstructing the publick service on all occasions, which you know there does not want instances of; and that the next rule should be in discharging those, who have not taken any care to find men to sail their ships, which I look on as a manifest artifice, for the delaying the service, and such you know must be burthen-som and useless to the Crown. I am,

Boyne, in *Porto Bello* harbour, S I R,

*Jamaica, July 5, 1742.*

your very humble servant,

To Mr. *Wallace* agent for the transports.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received yours of the 7th instant, owning the receipt of mine of the 6th, in which I sent you inclosed a list of all the officers and soldiers of the *American* regiment, on board his Majesty's ships in this harbour, amounting to 468, of which the twenty on board the *Experiment* were sent up to your camp yesterday as desired.

The *Vulcan* fireship (the only missing ship) being arrived, find he has none of the *Americans* on board, her soldiers being of Brig. *Wolfe's* marines.

And as there is no absent ship, but the *Seaborse*, Capt. *Durell*, that sail'd convoy to a homeward bound fleet through

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the



the windward passage, that I think can have any on board which are suggested to me to be about ten; but you shall have a certain account upon her return, which I now daily expect.

I am pleased to find you agree with me, that the extraordinary expence on the transport service ought to be lessened as soon as possible.

And whenever any one applies to me for protections for supplying live cattle for the service of the forces, you may be assured they never will, nor never would have been refused it. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,* S I R,  
*Jamaica, April 9, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth.*

your most obedient  
humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

THE *Bonetta* sloop, Capt. *Lea*, being now careened and ready for the sea, designed for the expedition to *Rattan*, for which place they will be the best pilots, as coming so lately from thence, and having likewise the *Litchfield*, a fifty gun ship, that can be ready for the sea in a week's time; which I take to be a very sufficient convoy for covering and protecting the transports with the forces you may intend for taking possession and beginning a settlement on the said island, so well situated for securing our logwood trade, and opening new branches of trade into the kingdom of *Mexico*; which I apprehend to be for the honour and interest of our Royal Master, and the prosperity of his kingdoms. I take the first opportunity of acquainting you that I am ready, on my part, to appoint the convoy for proceeding on the said expedition, which Capt. *Lea* informs me, this month and the next are as proper for, as any time of the year, being dry, and a good season for turtle, found to be very wholesom and nourishing diet in these climates. And I presume, very few transports would be sufficient for the forces, stores, and ammunition, at first necessary to be sent thither.

But in case you think it will require any considerable time before you can get ready on your part, be pleased, as soon as you can, to favour me with an account when you judge you can have all ready, on your part, for proceeding on the said expedition; as I am sure you will agree with me, it is most for his Majesty's service, no clean cruizer should be unemployed in this harbour, and when I have your return, I think to employ her for a short cruize off *St. Jago*,

OR

or some neighbouring windward port, where I can depend on her return at the day appointed.

The *Bonetta's* return of twenty five *Americans* made last week, that I sent you, I find in this weekly account to be reduced to twenty, by the others having left him, (to go to the camp, I presume) on his having been to water at the rock; and her low estate obliges me to apply for your assistance, either of encreasing the *American* detachment to an officer and thirty men, or if you would have them sent up to your camp, to supply in their room an officer and thirty men from any other regiments, to go in the said sloop, which I should be obliged to you for giving your speedy orders in, for her going on a cruize for the time you think she can be spared.

Your speedy answer, and orders for the detachments to go to sea in the *Bonetta*, will oblige,

Boyne, Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, July 12, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Received last night by Lieut. *Andrews*, whom I sent to you with my letter of the 12th inst. your answer to it of the 13th, and was glad to hear, that by Mr. *Wallace's* return to you there were transports now ready for taking in the forces, stores, and provisions for *Rattan*.

Upon which, I have read over the resolutions of our last council of war, wherein the early settling of *Rattan* island was agreed to be, for the honour and interest of the Crown, and prosperity of the kingdom; and the expediency for doing it soon, approved of for the reasons there given, for the securing a good property, in case a confirmation of possessions should be agreed to by any treaty. But on your thinking the settling *Rattan*, required to be more deliberately considered, and digested into a method of execution, it was agreed to refer a final determination on that to a future meeting, being recommended to you; in the mean time, to consult the inclinations of some of the *Americans* to it.

The part incumbent on me, Sir, I take to be, providing a sufficient convoy to proceed with the said detachment, for beginning the said settlement, which I thought it for his Majesty's service to advise you of, as soon as they were ready.

And as the providing forces and provisions of both kinds, for war and subsistence, were in your province, and the disposal of property, to encourage it, thought to be in Gov. *Trelawney*, I doubt not but you have been regulating every thing in order to it.

And as you were the proposer of a future council, for farther deliberation on this subject, I have only to assure you, Sir, of my readiness to meet you at it, on any day you desire, at Gov. *Trelawney's* house in *Spanish Town*, or at the *South Sea* house in *Kingston*, which, I am persuaded, I can have the use of for that occasion, my ship being now in the hurry and noise of a refitting for the sea.

In relation to Mr. *Belford's* trial, the first notice that came to my hands was by your letters last night, by Lieut. *Andrews*, who brought two other letters from you, one dated the 11th, the other the 12th, (together with yours of the 13th) which, he said, were delivered him at *Kingston*. You had sent you, Sir, in *Porto Bello*, the informations in that affair, which, I presume, you will transmit to the court martial; and Capt. *Taylor*, the officer then upon duty, will have my orders to day to enquire at what place and hour the court martial on Mr. *Belford* will be held to morrow, who having wrote to me at *Bluefields* on the 22d of *May*, acknowledging his offence, and desiring my pardon for it, can need little other evidence than his own confession of it, and I send you a copy of his letter annexed to this.

As I have had a personal knowledge of, and esteem for Mr. *Belford's* father, I am far from having a personal ill will to him, but I think it for his Majesty's honour and service, that his repentance for his crimes, and asking pardon for them, should at least be as publick as his offence, that being the least that can be due, to supporting the honour due to his Majesty's commission.

Whenever you give me notice of the time, and place you would have the *Americans* sent up to, it shall be complied with, and as to the forces to replace them, they may be sent at your leisure, or as they shall be demanded for the ships, as they are ready for going to sea, which most of our ships are refitting for, and will require some time to put them in condition; so that taking them on board only a little before the time for their being ready, may be as commodious to you as us, but it shall be as you desire.

In regard to your letter of the 12th having given the unknown persons the assurance of a protection under my hand and seal, for such vessels as they shall employ in the  
service

service they mention, when they appear to me, to apply for it, I am sure that is all can be necessary from me.

But if your pay master, Mr. *Colebrooke*, be one of these persons, behind the curtain, as I have heard surmised, I have, I can assure you, no better opinion of his being able to execute it, than the projected schemes he is said to be memorable for in the year 1720, as well as other transactions at the *Bahama* islands since.

I send you likewise inclosed a copy of a letter from Lieut. *Gilchrist*, by which you may see, though the inhabitants of this island all stand in so great need of our Royal Master's protection, by his fleet and forces, sent hither at so great an expence, yet there do not want wretches that can be ungrateful enough to the Crown, for it's protection, to be even labouring to defeat his Majesty's gracious intentions, by encouraging all means to seduce the men from his Majesty's service, and even to favour the forwarding them to foreign colonies.

I have endeavoured to make it the standing rule of my conduct to keep the honour and service of the Crown, and the due execution of his Majesty's orders, in view; which I will steadily continue to pursue, without deviating from it.

And as to want of provisions for the forces, or the island, I can answer for supplying from his Majesty's stores, either of rice, flower, or salt provisions, all that any one in the island can think they stand in need of. But I think the subjects of his Majesty's plantations owe an allegiance and service to their Prince, as well as the subjects of *Great Britain*.

Capt. *Broderick*, lately returned from *Cuba*, found fresh beef growing a scarce commodity there, as well as here, as they have had a large *Spanish* Squadron to subsist at the *Havana*, besides a considerable number of land forces, as well as we, these being but the natural consequences of greater demands than ordinary, on the common markets in every country. I am, Sir,

*Boyne*, in Port Royal harbour,  
*Jamaica*, July 14, 1742.  
Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon*.

Copy of a letter from Mr. *William Belford*, to Vice Admiral *Vernon*, dated the 22d of *May*, 1742.

SIR,

AS I am sensible my rash behaviour, when at *Porto Bello*, was inconsistent with the character I would willingly acquire,



acquire, and of course deserving of your resentment; I therefore think it my duty, to take the first opportunity to acknowledge so great a fault, as I was then guilty of, which I here do, and am sorry that I should be so void of thought, as not to have complied with your orders; but still hope, Sir, that your goodness will extend so far as to forgive it, assuring you, that it shall be a caution to my future behaviour. And am,

Sir, with the greatest respect,

your most obedient and most humble servant,

*W. Belford.*

S I R,

I Have received yours of the 14th instant by the hands of Capt. *Hartley*, master of the *Bacchus* victualler, whom I have assured of a protection, whenever he pleases to call for it; but he says, he cannot get ready to sail sooner than the convoy that is to sail with the *Strafford*, being under orders to sail with the convoy.

And I received last night yours of the 16th, and whenever I have advice from you of your being desirous any proportion of the *Americans* should be sent up to the camp; I shall give the necessary orders in it, as you desire, and the marines that are to supply their places shall likewise be received on board his Majesty's ships, whenever you find it convenient to desire it.

The reasons given in Mr. *Campbell's* order of survey for the Crown's defraying the charges of the masters attendance on that service, and his charging it in his accounts, are so visibly for the service of the Crown, that I am persuaded no objection would ever have been made to allowing that charge in his account; but, since he thought an application to you, Sir, necessary in it, I think you have judged very rightly for his Majesty's service in giving him your order.

Whenever I have advice of the day and place Mr. *Trelawney* and you shall desire the council of war may assemble, I shall be ready to summon and assist at it. I am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, July 17, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth.*

S I R,

I Have received yours of the 17th instant with the inclosed proceedings of your general court martial on Mr. *Belford*, which I have read over. And as this determination on the evidence, there stated to be before them, does not appear

pear to me to be agreeable to the rules of military discipline, and might, unanimadverted on, be of ill consequence to his Majesty's service; I shall transmit a copy thereof to his Majesty's Secretary of State, to be laid before the King, for knowing his Majesty's pleasure thereon. But I am the less surprized at this determination, having heard, even before Mr. *Belford's* return into port, it was the news of *Kingston*, that Mr. *Belford* would be acquitted.

I have been in daily expectation when you would desire the council of war might reassemble, to consider of what you had to propose to them; and having delayed the sailing of the *Bonetta* on that occasion, desire you will let me know, as soon as you can conveniently, when you desire it, as I have a present service for her, if you do not expect to be ready within three weeks.

I have two nine-pounders, and six six-pounders, that were saved of the *Tyger's* guns, that I can accommodate you with, for their defence at *Rattan*, if you have not sufficient to furnish them with from your ordnance stores; which I desire your speedy answer in, that I may order them on board of any transport you desire, having stopped the landing them to wait your answer. I am,

Boyne, in Port Royal harbour  
Jamaica, July 19, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have just now received a letter from Mr. *Wentworth*, acquainting me, that as Mr. *Trelawney* cannot, without great inconvenience, come to *Kingston*, he desires we may meet at *Spanish Town* on Thursday next the 22d instant, at nine in the morning.

This therefore waits on you to inform you, that I will be at *Spanish Town* on Wednesday evening, where I hope to have the pleasure of meeting you at the same time, in order to hold the council of war the next morning.

Capt. *Durell* brought in yesterday a *Spanish* schooner, with a *Spanish* Collonel of dragoons on board, and about forty of his regiment; the Major, a Captain, and about thirty men contrived to drown themselves, by endeavouring to get ashore on the *Tortuga*, when they were in reach of the *Seaborse's* guns, and upon firing the first shot over her, they all run over on one side, and overset the boat. She has a mortar on board, and some military stores; she came out under convoy of two of the ships that engaged  
with

with the *Eltham*, bound to the *Havanna*, and says, that the new Governor of *Carthagera* was killed in that engagement; I am not out of hopes but Capt. *Laws* might get up time enough to meet with that convoy; and if he does, I make no doubt but he will bring us a good account of them.

I hope you have found great benefit by the country air, and that I shall have the pleasure of meeting you in very good health; and am,

*Boyne, in Port Royal  
harbour, Jamaica,  
July 19, 1742, in  
the evening.*

S I R,  
your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

Sir *Chaloner Ogle*.

S I R,  
I Have received yours of yesterday's date, and have wrote to Sir *Chaloner Ogle* at *Clarendon*, to meet us at *Spanish Town* early on Thursday morning next, as you desire; and you will be pleased to take care to bring Mr. *Blakeney* along with you. I am,

*Kingsion, July  
20, 1742.* S I R,  
your most obedient humble servant,  
Hon. General *Wentworth*. *E. Vernon.*

S I R,  
I Have received your letter of yesterday by Mr. *Wallace* this afternoon, and have given directions for the pieces of ordnance to be delivered to the person you shall be pleased to order to receive them, on his giving a receipt to Mr. *Rogers* the store-keeper for them.

This afternoon the merchants have requested, that I would order the *Strafford* to sail as convoy to their ships on the 2d of *Aug.* which I shall give the necessary directions in, and that the officer you shall be pleased to send on board with your dispatches, shall be received. I am,

*Kingsion, July  
21, 1742.* S I R,  
your most obedient humble servant,  
Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*. *E. Vernon.*

S I R,  
I Have received yours of the 23d instant, and the officers of the ordnance you shall be pleased to send to receive the two nine-pounders and six six-pounders I offered you, shall have my orders to the store-keeper for the same whenever he calls for it.  
Capt.

Capt. *Cusack* shall be directed to wait on you on Monday next, at Mr. *Colebrooke's*, for your order for the marines to be put on board the *Litchfield*.

And I will likewise give directions, that the *Americans*, who are now on board his Majesty's ships in *Port Royal* harbour, shall be sent up to the barracks at *Chelsea* on Monday morning next, according to your desire. I am,

Kingston, Jamaica, S I R,

July 24, 1742.

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received your letter of yesterday's date, and will observe whether, by the *Grafton's* weekly account to morrow, she is short of complement, in which case I will, according to your desire, order Capt. *Allan* to receive the number wanting to complete her, of the men of your regiment.

I had already given the necessary orders to the respective Captains for sending up the *Americans* to the barracks at *Chelsea* to morrow morning, which of course will be done early; so I conclude they will arrive timely enough to be present at the execution, as you desire.

Mr. Commissary *Turner*, whom Major *Lewis* has sent to me, has received the necessary orders for being supplied with the *Tyger's* guns, and the carriages and shot for them, and such other of our ordnance stores as he desired.

And as you seem desirous to be replacing the men, in lieu of the *Americans* coming up to the camp to morrow, Capt. *Rentone* in the *Rippon* will be ready to receive a detachment of eighty men, as soon as ever you please, and Capt. *Stevens* of the *Ludlow Castle*, a detachment of sixty men; which shall be sent for on Tuesday or Wednesday morning next, as you shall chuse, the best time being for the boats to come early for them, with the land wind, that they may be all ready embarked, to come down with the first of the sea breeze. I am,

Kingston, Jamaica, S I R,

July 25, 1742.

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas it is the resolution of a general council of war, for immediately setting out on the expedition for  
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settling the island of *Rattan*, for which General *Wentworth* is appointing proper transports, and giving directions for the embarkation of the forces, with the ammunition, stores, utensils, and provisions necessary for the said forces, beginning to establish a settlement on the said island :

You are hereby required and directed, with his Majesty's ship *Litchfield* under your command, (together with the *Bonetta* sloop, whose Captain has my orders to put himself under your command) to take under your command, care, protection, and convoy all the transports and storeships appointed to proceed on that service, which I shall transmit you a list of, as soon as it is communicated to me ; to the masters of which ships you will take care to give out the necessary orders for their carefully keeping company with you, with proper rendezvous, in case of separation by bad weather, or other unavoidable accidents.

And as it is the resolution of the said general council of war, it should be entered upon with all possible expedition ; you are, as soon as you shall have advice of the transports and storeships appointed for the said undertaking, being in all respects in condition to proceed with you, without the least loss of time, to put to sea with them, and proceed with them to *Port Royal* harbour, on the south side of the island of *Rattan*, which is judged to be the most proper place for beginning the said settlement, and for your guidance you have annexed a copy of the description of the said island and harbour, as delivered to me by Lieutenant *Andrews* of the *Bonetta* sloop, who will undertake to pilot you into the said harbour, having come out of it himself in the *Margate* transport, in not less than four fathom water ; but as by his account the best of the channel appears to be but narrow, you are hereby strictly charged, not to attempt going into that harbour with his Majesty's ship *Litchfield* on your first arrival there, but to give your orders to Capt. *Lea* of the *Bonetta* sloop, to lead the transports and storeships into the said harbour, and then as the bar appears by the annexed account to be but narrow, to have the best of the channel over the said bars carefully buoyed by the boats of the said transports for your coming in between them in the best of the channel, directing him to make you a proper signal when the said channel is buoyed for your coming in, and to send Lieut. *Andrews* off to you, to assist in piloting you safe into the said harbour.

And as, according to Lieut. *Andrews*'s description of the said channel, you will find it easily defensible, by mooring

your

your ship just within the said bar, you will accordingly, after carefully surveying the same, moor your ship where you shall judge most proper, for defending the said harbour against any attempts by sea; and after the troops being landed, if you judge it necessary, you will post the transports and storeships for assisting likewise in the defence of it, as you judge most proper.

As Capt. *Lea* is put under your orders, you will, after your being got into port, employ him in cruising for intelligence, giving notice to Capt. *Pitt* at *Black River* of your arrival, or on any other service you shall find to be most expedient for his Majesty's service, for the space of thirty days, at the expiration of which time you will give him your orders for making the best of his way to this port, and send me by him the best observations you have been capable of making of the situation of the said port, and it's being capable of being defended, and what progress has been made in it.

And as I fear you will find those going thither novices in many things necessary for their defence, you will, on the principal engineer's applying to you for your advice and assistance, give him your advice in writing, where you think he ought to erect his fortification for defence of the said harbour, and give him your aid and assistance, for their forming their platforms, and mounting their guns for them, and all such services as you find them least experienced in; and as the General will send money for paying for all works of labour necessary to the erecting works for their defence, you will take care to procure for your men the same additional pay that is allowed to workmen in the several different occupations they are employed in, that your men may have an encouragement equal to any others, in all works, you shall find them to be necessary to them in, to prevent any discontents arising amongst them, for want of an equal encouragement, where their service is found to be necessary.

And as by the resolutions of the general council of war, it is left to General *Wentworth* and Governor *Trelawney* to draw up the instructions for the civil and military government of this new settlement, with a recommendation for establishing the civil government distinct from the military, and that all disputes of property, or between the inhabitants not in the military pay, may be decided by the civil magistrates only, of which Mr. *Pitt* was recommended to be

the chief ; as from his influence and esteem amongst the straggling subjects of his Majesty, or others desiring to become so, the engaging those from *Black River*, the *Musquetto* shore, and the bay of *Honduras*, to become settlers there, will principally depend, I cannot but recommend it to you, as for his Majesty's service, to countenance and support the establishing the said civil government, and to give Mr. *Pitt* your advice and assistance in it.

And as the principal engineer, Mr. *Armstrong*, is by the resolutions of the general council of war to return to this harbour in the *Bonetta*, to bring us an account of his observations and proceedings, and his opinion in what may be further necessary for the security of the said settlement, you will accordingly give your orders to Capt. *Lea* of the *Bonetta* to receive Mr. *Armstrong* and his servants, and victual them as his sloop's company, for their passage to *Jamaica*, giving the said principal engineer suitable accommodations in his passage.

And on the instructions given them that are to settle there, being communicated to you, you will, according to the best of your judgment, give them your advice, aid, and assistance, in what you find necessary for the due execution of them ; and to prevent any mistakes or misapprehensions, On their having occasion to apply to you, you will direct it to be in writing, signed by the officer, having occasion to apply to you, and to give your advice in answer to it in writing signed by you likewise.

And in all other respects you will conform yourself to what shall appear to you to be most for his Majesty's service in the secure establishment of the settling of the said island. And if you shall judge it for his Majesty's service, from any advices you may meet with, to dispatch the *Bonetta* sloop back to us sooner than the time appointed for her return, you are left to your own discretion in that particular.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons or effects, wherever you shall find the same on the seas, as you will all ships or vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores. For, &c.

Given

Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the  
*Boyne* in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica* this 26th of *July*,  
1742.

To Capt. *Cusack* Commander of his *E. Vernon*.  
Majesty's ship the *Litchfield*.

Copy of Lieut. *Andrews*'s description of the island of *Rattan*.

THE island of *Rattan* bears about W. S. W. from that  
of *Banacca*, and N. W. from *Truxillo* bay on the  
*Spanish* main, distance about twelve or fourteen leagues.  
*Rattan* is an island of an irregular figure, but the nearest  
to the resemblance of a canoo, the South side of which  
fronts the *Spanish* main; this side is about the height of  
*Saltpan-hill*, with a gully in it, down which channel the  
water runs to the watering place in *Port Royal* harbour.  
The soil here is of a clayey kind, and different colours;  
what parts of the island I saw were covered with trees,  
several of them of different kinds, and very large, the  
N. E. part appeared at some distance very even.

*Edward Chandler*, an *English* hunter, who lives there,  
told me there were several *Savannahs* on the N. W. part  
of the island, where he lived with plenty of hog and deer,  
and good situations for plantations: he likewise said the  
island was healthy, and that the rains set in gently the  
latter end of *April*, and fell off about the same time as on  
the main; but the rains during those seasons never fall so  
frequent, or so violent, as on the *Spanish* coast opposite.

There is no anchoring off *Port Royal* harbour, on ac-  
count of the shoals being steep too, and very rocky: the  
channel going into the harbour is narrow, I judge it not  
above thirty or forty fathom over, from three fathom to  
three fathom water on the edge of each bank: the least  
depth of water we had going in with the *Bonetta* was three  
fathom for two casts, and in coming out with the trans-  
ports no less than four fathoms.

With the usual sea breeze, which generally blows about  
E. N. E. you may keep in for the harbour, sailing in with  
the wind abaft the beam at first entrance to keep clear of  
the weather shoal, then haul up, observing the colour of  
the water, and keeping the lead going till you fetch into  
5, 6, 8, or 10 fathom water in a safe harbour, about half  
a mile broad, and two mile in length, and capable of con-  
taining about forty sail of shipping moored.

It



It is steep too on the South side in the harbour, but gradual soundings on the North side for about two thirds of the harbour up, then three and four fathom water very near the shore, as we found in turning the transport up from the watering place, to the head of the harbour, where she hove down by a sunken stage on the N. E. part of the harbour. We built a wharf, hauled the transport close to it, and took on board all the goods.

The best watering place is opposite to the harbour's mouth, there are some other places to fill water at, but not good.

The harbour lies about E. N. E. and W. S. W. and I believe I could anchor either a forty or fifty gun ship in the harbour.

There is great plenty of fish and turtle about the island.

July 17, 1742.

Thomas Andrews.

By, &c.

YOU are hereby required and directed immediately to complete your victualling to four months, for the full complement of his Majesty's sloop *Bonetta* under your command, and to put yourself under the command of Capt. *Cusack* of his Majesty's ship *Litchfield*, whose orders you are carefully and punctually to obey until your returning to join me, when he shall find it necessary to dispatch you on that service, in pursuance of his orders from me. For, &c. Given under my hand on board of his Majesty's ship the *Boyne* in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica* this 26th of *July*, 1742.

To Capt. *Lea* Commander of  
his Majesty's sloop *Bonetta*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Received last night your letter of yesterday, which I read over with no small surprize, as I have since carefully the resolutions of our two last general councils of war of the 28th of *June*. and the 22d of this month, in the former of which I find in the preamble, that I had proposed to you to point out tous any enterprize you judged proper to be undertaken, and on your excusing yourself from that, and desiring I would suggest what I thought proper for our consideration, amongst others this of *Rattan*, for the reasons suggested at large in that general council of war, met an unanimous approbation, but at your request it was agreed to refer a final determination on it to  
a future

a future meeting, which we have accordingly had at the time you desired, in which it was unanimously agreed, that it is for his Majesty's service the convoy should proceed with the transports in the execution of our first resolution on that head of the 28th of *June* last, for the settling of the island of *Rattan* with all possible expedition.

In pursuance of which unanimous resolutions of the said two councils of war, I have got the *Litchfield* and *Bonetta* ready to proceed to sea as convoy to the transports and storeships you shall think proper to send, and Capt. *Cusack*, who is to command the said convoy, has already my instructions for his government on the said service, agreeable to the unanimous resolutions of the said two councils of war of the 28th of *June* and 22d of *July*, and was by my order yesterday to apply to you or the commanding officer in town for the detachment of eighty men, you were pleased to promise me for putting that ship in condition for service, and the commanding officer appointed to morrow morning for his sending for the said soldiers, which he has my orders for doing, and has assured me that he is ready for proceeding to sea with them the next day, being Thursday the 29th of *July*; and therefore if putting the resolution of the council of war in execution be delayed any longer, that will not at least be imputed to me.

When I gave my opinion for this expedition to the council of war, I doubt not, Sir, but you will remember, that amongst other things, I laid before you Capt. *Broderick's* letter, mentioning the force that they had at the *Havanna*, and that I observed to the council of war, that the *Spanish* squadron so long posted at the *Havanna*, were in my apprehension very well posted for the security of *La Vera Cruz*, where we could not have gone without leaving it in their power to cut off our communication with *Jamaica*, and falling on us at pleasure, and then observed that our fleet and forces in this island were equally well posted to cover and succour the settlement of the island of *Rattan*, which I therefore thought in no danger from that squadron.

There was likewise read to the council of war the description of the island of *Rattan* and *Port Royal* harbour, by Lieut. *Andrews*, on which Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I founded our judgments, and I think very justly, that a fifty gun ship would be able to defend the entrance of that harbour, the channel over the bar being very narrow for ships of her draught of water, and there being no anchorage without  
the

the bar, nor entrance for a ship of a bigger draught than her.

And as to the little danger there was even for a hundred men to commence a settlement there, I instanced to the council of war Capt. *Pitt*, and some thirty or forty more of his Majesty's subjects, having long supported themselves at the mouth of *Black River*, on the *Spanish* main Continent, about fourteen or sixteen leagues from *Rattan*, without ever having been driven from thence.

And as I have reason to believe there were amongst the *American* troops men as capable of commencing a settlement, and who understand cutting fascines, and building of huts, as well as any Blacks, I think there is no present need of any other workmen, and recommending to you, Sir, the sending a military chest, was for the mens being paid for such works as they were respectively employed in, which could require no great sum, for two or three months pay to encourage their labour, till you had further intelligence and opportunities of sending the supplies you judged necessary.

And as by the resolution of the council of war the *Bonetta* sloop is to return to us with intelligence after their being there thirty days, or sooner, if it be judged necessary, I am very clear in my opinion, the forces you intend sending are sufficient for beginning the settlement, and that all delays to the execution of it are little agreeable to his Majesty's instructions, and contrary to the unanimous resolutions of our two aforementioned councils of war.

I think, Sir, I have sufficiently given you my reasons against all the suggestions you mentioned to have been made you by Major *Caulfield* and others.

I well remember a maxim I have frequently heard from you, Sir, that soldiers were to fight and not to work, a maxim I never could approve of, and think itself sufficient to ruin any army; and having lately read the memoirs of a highly renowned General, Marshal *Turenne*, I had the pleasure to find him both in opinion and practice of a very different sentiment, as I can well remember likewise of the renowned General of our age and nation the great Duke of *Marlborough*.

And I cannot, Sir, omit mentioning to you with concern, that though his Majesty's instructions have strongly recommended to us some settlement being in the *West Indies*, yet there has appeared a visible spirit in some to defeat all settlements, and that even in *Cuba*, there were reports

ports of several complaining of the hardships of the *Europeans* being sent to go through fatigues in establishing the *Americans*. I am,

Kingston, Jamaica, July  
27, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE received your letter of the 27th of July, by Mr. *Wallace*, and mentioned to him a prize sloop of Capt. *Herbert's* which you might purchase cheap, if you think proper to appoint one under the orders of the commanding officer of the forces you send to *Rattan*. And as I know Mr. *Wallace* to be a good seaman, as well as a diligent officer in his post, and zealous in his Majesty's service, I desire him to lay before you how improper it will be for the *Bonetta* being charged with any convoy in her return, as speedy intelligence from thence was the principal view in sending her there, and that the transports remaining there till we knew their situation and state of affairs there, was absolutely necessary for his Majesty's service for the lodgment of the men, till they had time to erect huts for the covering of themselves, for assisting in the defence of the harbour, if that should become necessary, and for having a safe retreat for the forces even against what I think an imaginary apprehension of their venturing to come to attack them from the *Havanna*, while we have a force here at hand to call them to a severe account for it.

Your letter of the 28th came to my hands last night, and I cannot, Sir, but express my surprize that you should say in it, that you apprehended the summoning the council of war of June the 28th, was for my proposing to them the settlement of *Rattan*.

If you are pleased but to read over that resolution, you will see the first paragraph is, *viz.* the members of the general council thinking it their duty, as soon as they had got within reach of assembling together, to take into consideration what in their present circumstances they should judge most for his Majesty's service.

Which, Sir, I take to be the standing tenor of his Majesty's instructions to us, and what we ought to make the rule of our actions, to be considering how we can best answer the end and view of his Majesty in the great expence he has been at for sending us here.

S

And



And when this resolution, together with the preceding one, was taken so long ago as the 28th of *June*, and you had all the time since to consider of it, you desired, and the council assembled again at the time you desired, which was the proper time for the offering any objections to it.

And had all the power given you by the council you could desire, by their then, amongst other things already mentioned, recommending to you to furnish them with spare arms and much larger supplies of all manner of tools necessary, both for defence and cultivating land to raise provisions, than was in your list laid before us, and supplying the commanding officer with money to pay the workmen, for which I have heard from others that you have mentioned your having large sums in your power for all necessary contingencies, though I cannot say you ever mentioned it to me; but that was what I never doubted of.

But the principal matter of my surprize is, after the general council of war had met maturely to deliberate on what his Majesty had recommended to their consideration only, to hear of the opinion of others that had no such appointment from his Majesty, and whose duty I apprehend to be paying a punctual obedience to such orders as you shall think proper to give them, in conformity to the resolutions of the general council of war of his Majesty's appointment.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* doing me the favour to dine with me yesterday, I communicated to him your letter of the 26th, and my answer to it, and had the pleasure to find him in conformity of opinion with me, and I will venture to answer for it, that he will not think a thousand pound too much for your putting into the commanding officer's hands at first for paying for labour, till you see occasion for sending him a further supply; and as it is very probable Capt. *Pitt* will very soon come to join them, who can bring considerable gangs of negroes with them, upon the assurance that he, and those that bring them, shall be paid for their labour, which makes me think it unnecessary to send negroes from hence for the present; but if you have an inclination, and think it absolutely necessary to send any, neither Sir *Chaloner Ogle* nor I shall oppose it, but I am absolutely against the least delay, agreeable to the unanimous resolution of our council of war, as negroes can be dispatched after them. And I should think the proper time for that consideration would be upon the return of the *Bonetta*.

Fatigues in the heat of the day, or mens being exposed to the sun, in the interval of the breezes or other intemperate times, I know by long experience to be fatal to them, and have not been wanting in giving you my advice and opinion in that particular, but I think labour at proper times as necessary for mens health in this country as in any other, as scurvy is the most reigning distemper to which laziness is both the cause and the fatal consequences.

The merchants petitioning me yesterday to delay the sailing of the convoy till next Monday sennight, the 9th of *August*, on their assurance of desiring no farther delay, I have consented to what they desire; but on that day you may be assured they will sail, for your preparing your letters to go by her. And I shall remove to *Port Royal* on Saturday evening, when I shall be at hand to send you Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* joint opinion with mine, on any future occurrence; but in what passed in discourse yesterday, I know he will not think a thousand pound too much for you to supply the commanding officer with now.

Major *Burrard*, who called here this morning for an order for going home in the *Strafford*, shall have it as he desires. I am,

*Kingslon, July*  
29, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

AS I was going down to *Port Royal* the 31st of *July*, I thought it proper to delay answering your letter of the 30th (that did not come to my hands till that night) for considering it with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and sending you our joint opinion on it.

In regard to the inclosed instructions you have communicated to us, we think that the first thing you should recommend to the commanding officer, should be erecting the huts for sheltering the men, as the preservation of the mens health is deserving of the first consideration; but think it should be recommended to the engineer to pitch on such a spot for the erecting them, as appears most commodious for planing out his works, so as to have them within the compass of his works to be erected for their defence; for till they can erect huts to cover them, they must lodge every night on board the transports, that may be posted most commodiously, both for their retreat and covering the works they are carrying on.

S 2

And

And in regard to the power, you have thought proper to give the commanding officer of the detachment, for punishing capitally, we think, in your instructions to him, that should be expressly limited to those only in the military pay of the Crown.

And that all who come to become settlers in the island should be indulged, as much as possible, in the choice of their own places to settle in; as let it be where it will, they will secure their valuable effects, where they can be defended, and be ready to retreat thither for their common defence. And as they have been long practised in the liberty of following their own will, they must be cautiously won over to regularity, and not be prescribed to too much at first, for fear of discontenting them, and discouraging them to become settlers; so that the marking out a town may well be dispensed with for the present.

And as we compute the extraordinary expence for the daily pay to the men, to encourage them in their labour, for erecting their huts for their habitations and for magazines, and the necessary fortifications for their defence afterwards, cannot be less than near ten pounds a day; we conceive you cannot well furnish your commanding officer with a less sum than one thousand pounds, especially as those that are expected to come to settle there, and bring their negroes with them, will expect greater prices for their labour than you may think proper, for encouraging the labour of those in the King's pay and service.

We are of opinion, it is absolutely necessary that the transports should remain at *Rattan*, for lodgement and retreat to the men, and defence of the settlement and harbour, till we have opportunity of sending them farther orders, after our having accounts from them of the situation of affairs by the return of the *Bonetta*.

And as to the Governor's having a sloop to attend the services of the island, under his orders; as you were the first proposer of it, we should not have opposed it, if you thought it necessary, and concur with you now in thinking it may very well be suspended for a future consideration, dispatch, agreeable to the unanimous resolution of the council of war, appearing to us to be most for his Majesty's service.

We are pleased we can acquaint you, that the *Litchfield* and *Bonetta* have been ready for proceeding with the convoy ever since the 29th of *July*; so that no delays can be attributed

attributed on our parts, to the speedy execution of the unanimous resolutions of the council of war. We are,

Port Royal, Jamaica,  
August 1, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servants,

E. Vernon,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

C. Ogle.

By, &c.

Whereas it has been represented to me, by Mess. *James Woodcock* and *David Campbell*, in behalf of themselves and others, that they have by their supercargoes entered into agreement with some inhabitants near *Porto Principe*, for a quantity of black cattle, provided they come in a private manner; and that they have fitted out for that purpose the snow *Westmoreland*, *Henry Bradley* master, which will require her being navigated with twenty-five white men, officers included; and which, together with the sloop *Anne*, *David Whitney* master, is now ready for sailing, and therefore desiring my protection for the said master and twenty-four men more, including officers, while they shall continue employing the said snow, for procuring black cattle or other live stock from the said island, under the assurance they have given me, that they will not to their knowledge entertain any men that shall belong to any of his Majesty's ships.

In regard to the personal knowledge I have of the zeal and affection to his Majesty's service, of the said Mess. *Woodcock* and *Campbell*, that I can rest assured they will not abuse this confidence, neither to their Prince, nor their Country;

I do hereby grant my protection for the snow *Westmoreland*, *Henry Bradley* master, together with twenty-four other white men, for the complement of the said snow, officers included, provided they be none of them deserters from his Majesty's service, and to continue to them the said protection, as long as they shall continue employed in the aforementioned service, hereby strictly prohibiting all officers in his Majesty's service from impressing any of the aforementioned complement of men, under any pretence whatever, but their knowing them to be actual deserters from his Majesty's service, as they will answer the contrary at their peril. Given under my hand and seal at Port Royal, Jamaica, this first day of August, 1742.

E. Vernon.

To all Captains, Lieutenants, and other inferior officers  
whatsoever,



whatsoever, belonging to his Majesty's ships and vessels under my command.

The like protection of the same date to the *Anne* sloop, *David Whitney* master.

By, &c.

THE merchants having requested your sailing, as convoy to their homeward bound fleet, being deferred to Monday the 9th of this present *August*, you had my verbal orders for it accordingly, and to hold yourself in readiness for sailing on the day desired, and to give the necessary sailing orders to all applying for them, and publick notice of the day of your sailing accordingly.

And you are hereby required and directed to put to sea as desired, with the said homeward bound fleet, on Monday the 19th of this instant *August*, and to take under your care, protection, and convoy, the said homeward bound fleet, (and all ships and vessels bound to the northern colonies that shall come for orders, as far as your way lyes together) and to convoy the same carefully as high up the channel of *England*, as the weather will conveniently permit you; and at the first port you shall arrive with them in the said channel, you are to set out post yourself with the several packets you shall receive from me, for his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, his Majesty's principal Secretary of state, and others, going directly yourself with my letters to his Grace, taking care that no private letters go from your ship till you have delivered my letters into his Grace's hands, and wait for his leave to proceed to deliver your letters for the right honourable the Earl of *Winchelsea*, and the Admiralty board, whose orders you will desire for your further proceedings, and then forward my other packets to the publick offices as directed.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

But as you are but a single ship for the convoy of this fleet, you are not on any account to chace so as to hazard losing company with them. For, &c. Given at *Port Royal, Jamaica*, this 4th of *August*, 1742.

To Capt. *Trevor* of the *Strafford*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

THIS comes to inform you that the *Astrea*, Capt. *Swanton* will be ready to sail for *New England* the latter end

end of this week, or beginning of next, if you have any letters or commands for those parts; and is to return here before *Christmas* with naval stores for his Majesty's yard here. And as it is grown to be even a more scandalous practice there, for them to employ themselves in seducing men from the Crown's service, than here if possible, it would be much for his Majesty's service if you will be pleased to spare us sixteen or twenty men, under the command of a serjeant, to serve on board his Majesty's ship *Astrea*, being much wanted for sentries to prevent desertions there if possible. As she is to clean there, for her return here, Capt. *Swanton* will wait on you for your orders in it, and what orders you may have for *New England*. I am,

Port Royal, August  
4, 1712.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon*.

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 30th of *June* by the *Princess Louisa*, Capt. *Young*, that sailed hence the 1st of *July* convoy to the homeward bound fleet; and the duplicate of my letter by him accompanies this to your Grace, by Capt. *Trevor* of the *Strafford*, who goes convoy to the present homeward bound fleet appointed, as the merchants desire, for sailing on the 2d of *August*.

On the 3d of *July* I got the *Tilbury*, Capt. *Lawrence*, to sea, a clean sixty gun ship, appointed to cruize to windward off *Rio la Hacha*, on the *Spanish* main continent.

On the 8th I got out to sea for a cruising squadron, under the command of Capt. *Laws* the *Greenwich* (the ship he commands) a clean ship, together with the *Adventure* and *Spy*, (refitted and victualled since their arrival from *England*) and a clean sloop tender, hurrying them to sea as soon as I could after our homeward bound fleet, for their greater security, and being in the way to take all privateers that might be cruising for intercepting stragglers; as from the number of *Irish* papists here, or by other ways, we find they seldom want good intelligence from hence. And he is under orders for cruising in such stations afterwards, as the intelligence he may meet may render most probable, for his destroying their privateers cruising on our trade going or coming through the windward passage within the limits of *Baracco*, *Crooked Island*, *Heneago*, *Turks Islands*, and to windward of *Cape Francois*; and as I apprehended  
for

for any of their privateers picking up some of our stragglers, I luckily directed his getting early off *Baracoa*, for being in the way of intercepting their getting in there, with any prizes they might make, which, by what has happen'd since, I hope, may prove a providential consideration.

Capt. *Durell* in the *Seaborse* came in here on the 18th, with a *Spanish* schooner he took off the island *Tortuga* on Wednesday the 14th of *July*, having on board Don *Alonzo de Arcos y Morena*, Colonel of the regiment of dragoons of *Almanza*, with near fifty of his regiment, the Major of the regiment, a Captain, a Cornet, and about thirty more, having contrived to drown themselves, in attempting to get ashore with the boat, when they were within gun shot of the *Seaborse*; for on her firing a shot that went over them, they running all over on one side overset the boat; he took up ten of them, and some *Mulatto* seamen escaped on shore, but the Major and the officers and soldiers were drowned. The schooner has on board a new brass mortar of 19 inches and other military stores, and there were on board ninety-seven persons in all at their sailing from *Porto Rico*.

The Colonel says they embarked at *Port Passage* on the 6th of *February* last, with his regiment of dragoons of *Almanza* of five hundred and twenty men, and the like number of infantry of the regiment of *Portugal*, on board of five ships of the *Caracca's* company, which were as follows, viz.

*El Coro* of sixty guns, but mounting only forty.

*St. Ignatio* of sixty guns, but mounting only forty.

*St. Sebastian* of thirty guns.

*St. Joachim* of thirty guns.

*St. Antonio* of twelve guns.

that they sailed from *Passage* the 12th of *February*, that of the *St. Antonio* they have not yet met any account; but that the *St. Ignatio* was lost on the *Anegada* shoals on the 30th of *March*, and that Don *Francisco Villavicencio*, Col. of the regiment of *Portugal*, with two Captains, three Lieutenants, and about one hundred and fifty in all, were then drowned. That on the 12th of *April*, off the *Virgin Gordos*, being the other three sail together, they were attacked by two *English* ships, in which engagement Don *Joachim de Miranda*, their new Governor for *Carthagena*, was killed, and they had their rigging much shattered; that they arrived at *Porto Rico* with the said three sail on the 15th of *April*, and that they took a *Boston* ship bound to

to *Barbadoes*, in their passage thither. (This rencounter with our frigates was with the *Eltham* and *Lively* under command of Capt. *Smith* from *Antigua*.) That they shipp'd the troops on board eight schooners and sloops, and sailed from *Porto Rico* on the 20th of *July*, under the convoy of *El Coro*, that had on board three hundred sailors and as many soldiers, and the *St. Joachim* one hundred and fifty sailors and as many soldiers; and that they left behind them the *St. Sebastian*, without any troops on board, having only her own complement of seamen, with which she was bound to the *Caraccas*.

And as my orders led Capt. *Laws* early off *Baraco*, I am not out of hopes if he had but good luck in getting up to windward, but that he may have come in time to intercept this convoy, or some part of them, of which I live in hopes of a good account; as his meeting them to leeward of *Cape Mayze*, might prevent his sending me any speedy account of it.

On the 9th of *July* I got the *Fowey*, a clean forty gun ship, to sea, and Capt. *Tucker* has my orders, first for looking into *Port Louis*, and then for cruizing to windward between that and *Cape Alta Vela*, for the security of our trade coming that way, and procuring me the earliest intelligence of the motions of any of the enemy's squadrons towards *Port Louis*; so I thank God, I have been able to patch up ships enough in good time, for supplying all my windward stations.

On the 9th of *July* I likewise got to sea Capt. *Dennis* in the *Experiment*, a clean twenty gun ship, together with Lieut. *Lowther*, in one of my sloop tenders, likewise clean; and as I have sent back the *Caledonian Indians* by Capt. *Dennis*, I send your Grace inclosed a copy of my orders to him.

And I send your Grace inclosed, on Capt. *Broderick* being returned from the *South Keys*, a copy of his letter to me of the 8th of *July*, of what intelligence he had met with, relating to Don *Roderigo de Torrez's* squadron being still at the *Havanna*, on the 15th of *June*, with a list of the twelve ships of the line he has with him, in the margin; besides which, there are the ships of the *Barlevento* squadron, under the command of Admiral *Spinola*, which I know to be the *Vizara* of sixty guns, and the *St. Juan* of the same, that are not mentioned amongst these; so that they have full as strong a squadron in these seas as we have, and they

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cannot



cannot be in so bad condition as our's came in from the sea, having had very little wear and tear.

I have got the *Litchfield* (a fifty gun ship) refitted and supplied with the masts and yards she wanted, and the *Bonetta* sloop cleaned and refitted, for being the convoy to the transports designed for the island of *Rattan*. And I have now the *Lyon* of sixty guns, and the *Ludlow Castle* of forty guns, the one careening at the wharf at the yard, and the other at the *Alderney* hulk; the *Rippon* and *York*, two sixty gun ships, preparing to careen by each other; the *Worcester* and *Defiance* along side each other, for taking in each other's guns, for lightening and heeling, to caulk and new sheath, between wind and water, and stop their leaks as well as they can, to be in condition for swimming home, as we have not conveniencies, hands, nor time for careening them. And the *Boyne* (I have my flag on board) is along side the *Deptford* storeship, that has taken in her guns, and lightened her for coming at stopping her leaks, and caulking and new sheathing her between wind and water, I have got her supplied with a new main mast, and fore mast, and hope by the middle of *August* she will be fit for the sea again, and that, by the latter end, I shall have some ships to put to sea with in a body, on any occasion that offers, through a *French* war or otherwise, and shall take care that no diligence in our power, with the few ship-wrights and caulkers we have, be omitted to be employed for the speedy refitting of all my tattered ships. And I have the *Shoreham* cleaning at a hulk of the merchants; but she proves so bad, that I fear she will be only fit for barely swimming home.

I must now proceed to informing your Grace of the steps taken by me, for forwarding all in my power the speedy execution of a part of the resolutions of our late council of war of the 28th of *June*, in regard to settling the island of *Rattan*; which I think I cannot more properly do, than by inclosing to your Grace copies of my letters to Mr. *Wentworth*, of the 12th and 14th of *July*.

And I cannot omit to send your Grace inclosed a copy of the proceedings of the general court martial upon Mr. *Belford*, held at *Kingston*, the 15th of *July*, to which is added a copy of my letter to Mr. *Wentworth*, of the 19th of *July*, in return to his having sent me inclosed a copy of it; and I am sorry to add that it has a long time appeared to me, that he has had a stronger inclination for wrangling with

with the fleet, than entering upon any measures to distress the enemy. But as I look on the point attempted in the resolution of this court martial, to be rather setting up a standard of mutiny, than conforming to his Majesty's instructions, of cultivating a good understanding between his sea and land forces, and cannot but entertain a jealousy of Mr. *Wentworth* having had a principal hand in it, which Capt. *Taylor's* account of what passed at the court martial, more fully explaining, I have with the said proceeding transmitted a copy thereof.

And thinking it of the utmost importance to his Majesty's service, that so dangerous a precedent for encouraging mutiny may not remain upon record; I transmit the proceedings to your Grace, with my request for their being laid before his Majesty, as a matter highly deserving his Royal consideration and determination on it, for preventing future ill consequences.

Mr. *Wentworth* desiring we might meet at a general council of war on the 22d of *July*, we met accordingly at Gov. *Trelawney's* in *Spanish Town*, and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of the resolution of that general council of war; and as the several instructions are referred to be drawn up by Mr. *Wentworth* and Mr. *Trelawney*, they will, I doubt not, be transmitted to your Grace by them. The principal points we recommended to them, were, the establishment of a civil government at *Rattan*, independent of the military; and as Mr. *Pitts* was like to be the person of most credit and satisfaction for engaging those from *Black River*, the *Musquetto* shore, and the logwood cutters to become inhabitants there, that he should be first and chief civil magistrate, for determining all disputes of property, or otherwise, between them; and that the principal engineer Mr. *Wentworth* had, should go down to plan all necessary works, for the other to be left to see the execution of, and the principal to return by the *Bonetta*, to report to us his observations on what might be farther wanting.

The *Spanish Col.* goes home in the *Stratford*, agreeable to the resolution of the council of war, and having a youth his son with him of twelve years of age, a Cornet in his regiment, he goes with him likewise; and as he is desirous to have his son at home, for being a comfort to his wife, and for following his studies, I have consented to his writing a letter to the Governor of *St. Jago de Cuba*, for allowing an exchange for him here, agreeable to the cartel settled at *St. Jago de Cuba* by Capt. *Stevens*, which I shall approve of

in all but the place of exchange, (which was contrary to my verbal orders to him,) as wholly disadvantageous to us. And I shall therefore propose to them *St. Jago de Cuba*, or *Cape Cruz*, instead of it. And as I doubt not but they will send us an exchange for the young Cornet, and a servant to take care of him, I am persuaded, your Grace will have a good natured pleasure in permitting the *Spanish* Col. to send his young son home, (with a servant) who appears a pretty well behaved youth, that his father has a tender affection for.

I find on discourse, that this detachment of forces was originally intended for *Carthagera*; but on their arrival at *Porto Rico*, having Advice that *Carthagera* was sufficiently supplied with troops, and that by means of *French* and *Dutch* vessels, they had been supplied with ammunition of all kinds that they wanted, it was determined for their going to *Cuba*, to be at hand there, to be sent wherever it might be found necessary for the publick service.

Having the *Litchfield* and *Bonetta* sloop ready to proceed to sea with the transports and storeship for the *Rattan* expedition, whenever they are ready, I send your Grace inclosed a copy of my orders to Capt. *Cusack* of the *Litchfield*, appointed to command the said convoy.

Being greatly surprized at a letter I received the 26th at night from Mr. *Wentworth*, I am under a necessity of troubling your Grace with an inclosed copy of it, and of my answer to it the next morning the 27th of *July*; by which your Grace will observe, the convoy will be ready to sail the 29th in the morning, and that Capt. *Cusack* has all necessary instructions from me for his government; so that I am sure, not the least obstruction or delay can be laid to my charge. And I must likewise trouble your Grace with an inclosed copy of Mr. *Wentworth's* letter of the 28th of *July*, with my answer to it of the 29th, which will, I hope, best explain to your Grace both our sentiments.

Having had it intimated to me, that a special summons had been issued by the Governor, for a council to be held on the 29th of *July*, as was imagined, for some representation being drawn up to be transmitted home by him, on an incident that happened in Governor *Trelawney's* house, after our late general council of war; as I was the third party, and the only one I believe in hearing of what passed, I was advised to transmit your Grace a true account of it, to prevent any ill impressions from a misrepresentation of it, which, to the best of my remembrance, was as follows.

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The council of war was held and concluded in the morning, and we all dined with Mr. *Trelawney*, and continued together till after drinking coffee, when we broke up; Mr. *Blakeney*, I think, went away directly; Mr. *Wentworth* took Mr. *Trelawney* aside in the next room, for some time before he went away, and it raining a little, I staid to keep Sir *Chaloner Ogle* company, till Mr. *Arcedune's* chariot came for him, we sitting alone in the dining room. When the General was gone, Mr. *Trelawney* came and sat by us, next to me, I being in the middle between them, when he read me a paper having no name to it, purporting an account of two men being impressed by some officers of mine, out of some vessel lately come in with eight hands; I took notice to him, that that paper was signed by no one; that I thought, in regard to the post I was in, all applications of that kind ought originally to be made to me, and that as I knew nothing of the particulars of it, I thought I neither ought, nor should give any answer to it, with which he seemed at first very angry, and said, it should be the last application he should make me; and on my adding, I thought that should rather be an ease to him, than give him just cause of offence, he seemed calmed again; but adding, I imagined it came from his friend Mr. *Dicker*, whose conduct I had no great reason to be satisfied with; Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, on the mentioning Mr. *Dicker's* name, repeated the name of Mr. *Dicker*, saying, that Mr. *Dicker* was a rascal; on which Governor *Trelawney* in the rage of a madman, started from his chair, turned as pale as a ghost with rage and frenzy, and drew his sword, telling Sir *Chaloner*, Mr. *Dicker* was no more a rascal than he was. Upon which being between them, I started up in time, clapt my left hand upon the wrist of his sword arm, and my right hand on his shoulder, in which posture he kept going backward through the next room, and from thence into the back piazza, foaming with the rage of a madman, and calling to Sir *Chaloner* (whom I could not see being behind me) go out of my house, Sir, go out of my house, till four of his servants came up to him in that passage, and coming round him, went with him through a room they powder perriwigs in, and I presume up stairs, hearing no more of him; and when I could turn about to see Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, he had only a hand upon the hilt of his sword, but no sword drawn, and I heard no word pronounced by him; the chariot came soon after for Sir *Chaloner*, who went away in it. But Mr. *Allen*, a young Attorney, coming to speak with me on his own affairs, being recommended



commended to my friendship, as it rained a little, I walked for some time with him in the room, and under the piazza, and Mr. *North*, the Judge of the Admiralty Court, coming up to me there, I took that opportunity of presenting Mr. *Allen* to him, and recommending him to his good offices; and remember, Mr. *Williams* the clerk of the council, passed by us in the piazza into the Governor's house at the same time, but I heard no more of him during the time I staid, which I believe might be about a quarter of an hour, when I walked to Dr. *Fuller's* a neighbouring gentleman's house. I continued in *Spanish Town* that day, and the day afterwards, without hearing that the Governor ever sent any apology for his crazy ungentlemanlike behaviour in his own house; and this, to the best of my memory, is a true narrative of the proceeding.

What I conceive occasioned Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* adding the epithet of rascal, upon Mr. *Dicker* being named (which I did not so well know the cause of then) was, that he had heard, before it's coming to my knowledge, of Mr. *Dicker* having solicited hands to a petition about *Kingston*, for a complaint against me, for some transactions of a Lieut. of the *Litchfield*, when I was last over at *Porto Bello*; which several merchants refused to sign, alledging it for a reason, that it was founded upon facts that they that solicited it knew to be false; which I am persuaded, every one must allow to be a rascally action: And I verily believe, this was the inducement for Sir *Chaloner's* saying he was so.

I had lived in a constant good harmony with Governor *Trelawney* before the arrival of the forces here, having always met his ready concurrence in favouring every thing I proposed to him for his Majesty's service; but whether it was from Mr. *Wentworth's* infusing colonelship into his head, or whatever else, he has seemed to me to join in all clamours against the fleet since, and to find a general fault with every thing he approved of before; and impressing is now made the general ground work of all their clamour here. I served here twice in the late war in the Queen's time, the first time under the command of Sir *Charles Wager*, whose conduct having met the general approbation of all the merchants at home and here, I thought I could fix on no better pattern to govern myself by; and that I have made an invariable rule ever since my being in command here: And on this occasion think it necessary to send your Grace inclosed a copy of the uniform orders given to those that had the regulating the procuring recruits for the squadron,

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that

that your Grace may judge, whether that should furnish any just cause for clamour or not.

On further discourse, I find the reason for their embarking the *Spanish* forces in small vessels at *Porto Rico* was, that they were to land at *Baraco*, or another small port eighteen leagues to leeward of it, where the Col. expected to find horses provided for him for mounting his regiment of dragoons, for which he carried their saddles and all accoutrements with him. And as the *Spaniards* knew, they could march dragoons between *Baraco* and *St. Jago*, there cannot be a stronger proof of its being practicable to march infantry; and I conjecture, this resolution was taken on their apprehending we intended a second attempt on *St. Jago*.

The convoy being, at the request of the merchants, detained from sailing till the 9th inst. I have had come to my hands a letter from Capt. *Laws*, from off *Cape Nicola* of the 29th of *July*, which I thought proper to send your Grace inclosed a copy of, and was sorry to find by it, that the leeward current had prevented his getting up in time, to have intercepted the *Spanish* convoy from *Porto Rico*, and am persuaded, the small vessels he mentions to have been in *Baraco*, were those of that convoy that have landed the troops there, as I was informed they intended to do, and conclude, the convoy proceeded through the old *Bahama* channel to the *Havanna*. I am,

My Lord Duke,

*Port-Royal, Jamaica,*  
*Aug. 5, 1742.*

your Lordship's most devoted  
and obedient humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

S I R,

UPON receipt of a letter this day from *William Bull*, Esq; from *Charles Town* in *South Carolina*, accompanied likewise with an affidavit, sworn before him or his son, I immediately communicated the same to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*; and as we apprehend the said *William Bull*, Esq; to be Lieut. Gover. of *Carolina*, we both judged it of consequence to have a general council of war immediately summoned upon it; the purport being to inform us, of a descent being made, in small imbarcations, upon the infant colony of *Georgia* by the *Spaniards*.

And the messenger mentioning having letters for you and the Governor, we doubt not but you have the same particulars, and are persuaded you will agree with us, as the homeward bound fleet is to sail on Monday next, that we ought

ought to hold a general council of war on Saturday morning, for having time to send an account of our proceedings by the said fleet; and the signal will accordingly be made, for the said general council of war being held on board the *Boyne* on Saturday morning at 8 o'clock, and we desire you will be pleased to bring Mr. *Blakeney* with you to it; and Capt. *Allen* will have orders to have a boat with an officer up at *Kingston*, to attend your orders, at six o'clock on Saturday morning.

And we have wrote to Gov. *Trelawney*, to desire his company there too, and that a boat and officer will be likewise in attendance for him at *Passage Fort* by six o'clock on Saturday morning. We are,

S I R,

Port-Royal, *Jamaica*,  
August 5, 1742.

Your most obedient  
humble servants,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon*,  
*C. Ogle*.

By, &c.

**W** Hereas we have a considerable fleet of merchant ships, now bound home under the convoy of his Majesty's ship the *Strafford*;

You are hereby required and directed, for their greater security, to get ready for the sea with all possible expedition, and to complete your victualling to three months, and then put to sea, and make the best of your way for cruizing off *St. Jago*, for being in the way to intercept any of their privateers with their prizes, in case they should have picked up any of our stragglers from the fleet.

And as you will have delivered you with those orders, the copy of my letter to the Governor of *St. Jago*, and likewise of the cartel agreed to by Capt. *Stevens*, you are to govern yourself in your conduct by them, in all transactions between you and the Governor of *St. Jago*, to whom you will on the first convenient opportunity send my letter ashore by a flag of truce, by your interpreter, appointing a time, on a signal made you, for sending ashore for an answer, which in regard to the harbour lying so much in the codd of the bay, I think you had better do, at the battery a league to windward of the *Morro Castle*.

And you will use your endeavours for procuring an exchange being allowed you for Don *Manuel Cardon*, and the two *Spanish* merchants landed at *Carthagena*, by Capt. *Stevens*; but if they refuse that, you may procure the release of the *Sheernefs* midshipman and boats crew, or whatever

ever other *English* prisoners you find to be there, in exchange for such as you have on board, agreeable to the terms of the cartel; and if you find they are inclined to the altering the two first articles of the cartel, in regard to the place of exchange, you may sign to an agreement for that purpose, and to fix a certain time for doing it, if he proposes it to you; or leave it to a future consideration, if he desires time to wait for an answer from the *Havanna*: But you will, agreeable to the tenour of my letter, endeavour to procure the immediate release of Capt. *Wyllis*, and his mate Mr. *Duany* if you can, and give an exchange for them agreeable to the cartel, if you cannot procure it otherwise.

And you are to continue cruizing off that port, and having an eye to the executing your orders for an exchange for the space of twenty days, for being sure of the fleets being safely passed by, when you are to return to this port, for my further orders.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours, to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, wherever you shall find the same on the seas, as you will all ships and vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores.

But on meeting with any of the *Guarda Costas* of his most Christian Majesty, you will carefully preserve with them that good correspondence that ought to subsist between officers in the services of Princes in amity with each other. For &c. Given at *Port-Royal, Jamaica*, this 5th of *August*, 1742.

To Capt. *Durell* of the *Seaborse*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received your Excellency's letter of last night, approving of the general council of war being summoned to meet to morrow morning, and desiring it might rather be at your house in *Spanish Town*.

In regard to your suffering some inconveniencies upon the water, I had, in complaisance to you, made you that compliment on many prior occasions.



But your amazing and ungentlemanlike behaviour in your own house to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, of which I was an eye-witness (and for which, I have never yet heard, you have made him any apology,) very justly dispensing me from consenting to any future meetings there, I send this to inform your Excellency, that the *Boyne* lying now at anchor in a part of the harbour where she has no motion at all, you cannot suffer any inconveniencies from that, and that I think, no one can dispute me at least the right, as the senior General Officer, to summon the council of war to be held at my quarters; where every thing will be accordingly prepared for your reception, at 8 o'clock to morrow morning, and a boat with an officer in it, will be attending for your Excellency at *Passage Fort* to morrow morning at 6 o'clock, as you had advice of it yesterday, by the joint letter from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me. I am,

S I R,

*Port-Royal, Jamaica,*  
*August 6, 1742.*  
Your Excellency's  
most obedient humble servant,  
His Excellency Governor *Trelawney*. *E. Vernon.*

S I R,

U Pon the receipt of your extraordinary letter by Capt. *Hore*, which I immediately communicated to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, we have thought proper to send you a copy of Gen. *Wentworth's* letter of this day, as follows.

I shall wait on you at the time you mention on board the *Boyne*, in company with Brigadier *Blakeney*; I find there are letters for me from *South Carolina*, I suppose, to the same purpose with your's, which are not delivered. I am, &c.

*Tho. Wentworth.*

And to give it you as our advice, as you are the junior in rank of this general council of war, that you ought to follow the precedent set you by your seniors, and in expectation that you will do so, a boat with an officer will attend you at *Passage Fort* at 6 o'clock to morrow morning. We are,

S I R,

*Port Royal, Jamaica,*  
*August 6, 1742.*  
Your Excellency's  
most obedient humble servants,  
*E. Vernon,*  
*C. Ogle.*  
His Excellency Governor *Trelawney*.

S I R,

S I R,

UPON the receipt of your second letter this night, we thought it proper to send you a copy of the letter we sent some hours ago to Governor *Trelawney*, and shall be assembled on board the *Boyne* to morrow morning at eight o'clock, (and Capt. *Allen* will be attending for you with his boat, as directed at *Kingston*) where we shall expect your company, and Mr. *Blakeney*. We are,

S I R,

*Port-Royal, Jamaica,*  
*August 6, 1742.*

Your most obedient humble servants,

*E. Vernon.*

*C. Ogle.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

PURSUANT to the resolution, we have transmitted to you a copy of the unanimous resolution of the members of the general council of war, that thought it their duty to pay due obedience to the summons and signal.

The informations of the officers taken before the council, being too long, we have not time for sending them you now, but they will be sent to you on the first leisure for having them transcribed. We are,

S I R,

*Boyne in Port-Royal*  
*harbour, Jamaica,*  
*August 7, 1742.*

Your most obedient humble servants,

*E. Vernon.*

*C. Ogle.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

IN this come inclosed to you, by Capt. *Swanton*, copies of the informations of the three officers we had in examination before us, of which he was one himself; who calls to receive your commands for *New England*, and will sail on Monday, unless you desire his stay till Tuesday, which shall be as you desire. I am,

*Boyne in Port-Royal*  
*harbour, Jamaica,*  
*August 7, 1742.*

S I R,

Your most obedient humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

CAPT. *Durell* in the *Seahorse* is going out upon a cruize off *St. Jago*, and it is a part of his orders, to endeavour to procure the release of Capt. *Wyllis*, but as the ship is weakly manned, and she is to cruize off an enemy's port, there is the greater necessity that she should be put into a good condition for service; I should therefore be obliged to you,

if you will give directions for a detachment of sixteen or twenty men, with a serjeant, to be embarked on board of her on Tuesday morning next, when Capt. *Durell* will send his boat to *Kingston* for them, that he may be able to proceed to sea next day, in the execution of his orders. I am,

Port-Royal, Jamaica, S I R,

August 8, 1742.

Your most obedient humble servant,  
Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*. *E. Vernon.*

My Lord Duke,

AFTER making up my packets for your Grace on the 5th instant, I received the same evening a letter from *William Bull*, Esq; of *South Carolina*, of the 7th of *July*, of the *Spaniards* in small embarkations, being upon the point of making a descent in *Georgia*. I send your Grace inclosed a copy of his letter, and the inclosed affidavit, which I immediately consulted Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon, and we joined in letters of summons, dispatched away that evening, to Gen. *Wentworth* and Gov. *Trelawney*, (a copy of which comes inclosed) for holding a general council of war, on board the *Bryne* at eight o'clock on Saturday morning the 7th, for transmitting to your Grace the resolutions therein taken, by Capt. *Trever* of the *Strafford*, appointed to sail with the convoy the 9th inst. and to our said letter go annexed copies of their several answers and our replies.

But as no time was to be lost, for giving your Grace the fullest state of our proceedings on this occasion, though the other members were not pleased to pay obedience to the summons and signal, Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I thought it our duty, and for his Majesty's service to proceed to deliberate on it, and having summoned before us Capt. *Chambers* of the *Montagu*, Capt. *Swanton* of the *Astrea*, and Lieut. *Graham* of the *Worcester*, very good officers and good seamen, on whose judgment we can rely, we took their respective informations (copies of which come likewise inclosed to your Grace) and after duly weighing all the evidence before us, drew up our resolutions, as on mature deliberation appeared to us to be most for his Majesty's service, a copy of which also accompanies this to your Grace.

Agreeable to the latter part of the said resolutions, we have sent copies of the said resolutions, and of the several informations of our three officers above mentioned, to Gen. *Wentworth*; and if he thinks them necessary to be revised, and considered in a future council of war, at which they will attend, I will not fail to summon it, whenever he de-

sires

fires it, after the *Strafford* being sailed to morrow, as that interval of time will be all hurry.

I have not time for adding more at present, than that I shall continue to serve his Majesty with a sincere zeal for his honour and service, till I am relieved from the disagreeable situation that I have so long, and justly complained of. I am,

My Lord Duke,

*Port-Royal, Jamaica,  
August 8, 1742.*

Your Lordship's most devoted,  
and obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

Yours of this day's date, signed by Mr. *Blakeney* and Mr. *Trelawney*, as well as yourself, was brought to me this night by your Aid de camp, Capt. *Wilmot*, when Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I were together.

And we must first inform you, that we look upon the resolutions of the members of the general council of war that assembled, agreeable to the summons and signal, and which are transmitted to the Secretary of State, to be the resolutions of the general council of war, and as such to be conformed to, though you declined assisting at the said council of war.

But since it is your joint request, that the execution should be delayed till another council of war should be assembled, the orders for the delay shall be given at your request; but under this protestation on our parts, that you must answer to his Majesty for the ill consequences from such a delay.

And we advise you now again, that the signal for a general council of war of sea and land officers, shall be made on board the *Boyne* on Thursday morning next at 8 o'clock, being the 12th of this inst. *August*, when you are desired to bring Mr. *Blakeney* with you, to the said general council of war. And we shall acquaint Mr. *Trelawney*, that the signal will be then made on board the *Boyne*, and a boat with an officer waiting for him at *Passage Fort* at six o'clock on Thursday morning; as Capt. *Allen* will have orders to be ready to attend you the same morning at the King's Wharf at *Kingston*. We are,

S I R,

*Port Royal, Jamaica,  
August 10, 1742,  
at night.*

your most obedient humble servants,

*E. Vernon,  
C. Ogle.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

By,



By, &amp;c.

GEN. *Wentworth*, Mr. *Blakeney*, and Gov. *Trelawney* having by their joint letter of this day's date, desired I would give you orders to delay your sailing with the convoy for *Rattan*, till another council of war should be assembled, which the signal will be flying for, on board the *Boyne*, on Thursday morning next:

You are hereby required and directed, agreeable to their request, to suspend your sailing with the said convoy till Thursday next, when you are to attend on board the *Boyne*, for receiving my orders for your further proceedings, agreeable to the instructions you have long since received from me. For &c. Given at *Port-Royal, Jamaica*, this 10th of *August*, 1742.

To Capt. *Cusack* of the *Litchfield*.E. *Vernon*.

S I R,

A Letter of the 10th instant, signed by Gen. *Wentworth*, Mr. *Blakeney*, and your Excellency, being brought to me last night by Capt. *Wilmot*, Aid de camp to Gen. *Wentworth*, when Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I were together, desiring the convoy for *Rattan* being detained, and that a council of war should be speedily summoned:

We think proper first to inform you, that we look upon the resolutions of the members of the general council of war, that assembled agreeable to the summons and signal, and which are transmitted to the Secretary of State, for being laid before his Majesty, to be the resolutions of the general council of war, and as such to be conformed to, though you declined assisting at the said council of war, summoned agreeable to our general instructions and uniform usage.

But seeing it has been your joint request, that the execution should be delayed, until another council of war should be assembled, the orders for the delay have been given upon your joint request; but under this protestation on our parts, that those who have desired it, must answer to his Majesty for all ill consequences from such a delay.

And we now think proper to send your Excellency advice, as we have already done to Gen. *Wentworth*, that the signal for a general council of war of sea and land officers, shall be made on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, to morrow morning at 7 o'clock, being Thursday the 12th of this instant *August*, and, that a barge with an officer will be in attendance for you at *Passage Fort* to morrow morning by 6 o'clock, and we desire your Excellency will be pleased to  
come

come and assist at holding the said general council of war on board the *Boyne*, at 8 o'clock of the said morning accordingly. We are,

*Port Royal, Jamaica,  
11 August, 1742.*

S I R,

your Excellency's

most obedient humble servants,

His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon,*

*C. Ogle.*

S I R,

I Have received yours of the 14th, and was glad to find mine, inclosing to you a copy of the resolution of our last general council of war of the 12th, was come to your hands; and I return my thanks for the copies you have sent me of the letters from Mr. *Stone*, to my Lord *Cathcart* and myself, of the 2d of *October*, 1740.

And I have given the orders you desire to the agent victuallers, for supplying Mr. Commissary *Campbell* a full proportion of provisions, for four months at whole allowance, for such a number of men as he shall apply to them for; or any farther supplies he may want, in pursuance of your orders, on his making a regular demand for them under his hand, to serve as their voucher, for charging him with the provisions.

By the returns I have had from the ships in harbour to day, I find, no *Americans* mentioned to be on board any ships here, so probably, they may be in the *Tilbury*, or some other ship now out cruizing, and whenever they return into port, shall send them up to join their regiment, as you desire.

I shall have the *Ludlow Castle*, Capt. *Stevens*, of forty guns, and the *Shoreham*, Capt. *Broderick*, of twenty guns, both clean ships, and ready for proceeding to sea, in ten days; which will be a sufficient convoy for seeing the transports safe to *Carolina*, whenever it shall be judged expedient to send any thither.

I had no publick letters by the merchant ship lately arrived from *England*, but have seen publick news papers to the 22d of *June*, by which it plainly appears to me, we are very near being upon the point of a rupture with *France*, his Majesty being mentioned to have guaranteed the treaty between his *Prussian* and her *Hungarian* Majesties, which the Elector of *Saxony* is invited to accede to; and likewise, that between her *Hungarian* Majesty, and the King of *Sardinia*; which, together with hastening his *British* troops to *Flanders*, and ordering his *Hanoverian* troops to take the field,

are to me plain indications that our Royal Master expects a rupture with *France*.

And as we have advice of the *Chester* being safely arrived in *England*, I flatter my self, before this month be out, we shall be favoured with the signification of our Royal Master's pleasure, the surest rule for our future conduct. I am,

Boyne, in Port Royal harbour, S I R,

Jamaica, August 16, 1742.

your most obedient

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

I Have received both your letters, of the 29th of *July*, and *August* 5, and am well pleased with your diligence, in the execution of your orders, and the description you have sent me of *Baracoa*.

The *Sea-horse* took off the *Tortuga*, the middle of *July*, a *Spanish* schooner, with the *Spanish* Colonel, and part of his regiment of dragoons of *Almanza*, which with that of infantry of *Portugal*, sailed from *Porto Rico*, in *July*, bound to *Baracoa*, under convoy of two of the *Guiafuscoa* company's ships that were a part of those that engaged with the *Elizabeth*; but they, I believe, must have passed by before you got to your station; and as the *Spanish* Colonel has said, they expected horses to be ready for them at *Baracoa*, for mounting his regiment of dragoons, it will be necessary to be better informed, before I can give my orders in what you mention; especially, as we have alarms, of the *Spaniards* having, in small embarkations, made a descent on *Georgia*, and that by the latest advices, things have an appearance of a speedy *French* war.

But having at different times had accounts of *English* seamen being at Port *François*, from prizes brought in there by the *Spaniards*, or otherwise, and that it has been a practice with the Governor of *Cape François*, to send the said *English* seamen home to *France*, in their ships:

You are hereby required and directed, upon these my orders coming to your hands by Lieut. *Saunders*, in the *Elizabeth* Tender, immediately to dispatch down to me the *Spy* Sloop (for my having her speedily cleaned for the *Carolina* expedition, if that be found necessary,) and to proceed your self with the *Adventure*, and *Elizabeth* sloop to cruize off port *François*, and to send with the *Elizabeth* tender into port *François*, an officer that can speak *French*, with a letter from you, demanding all his Majesty's seafaring subjects there, being delivered to you; as it has been all along my constant practice, even

to send up to them such of his most Christian Majesty's seafaring subjects, as have at any time, or on any occasion, come to stand in need of it in this island.

And for the better enabling you to perform the above-mentioned services, you may continue your cruize to the 15th day of *September* next. And you are to use your best diligence in inquiring, at what particular parts those *Spanish* forces aforementioned were landed. For *Ec.* Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica* the 17th of *August*, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Laws* of the *Greenwich*.

By, *Ec.*

Capt. *Laws*, being returned into port since the foregoing order was signed, you are therefore hereby required and directed, on receipt hereof, carefully to put the same in execution. For *Ec.* Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, *August* 21, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Draper* of the *Adventure*.

By, *Ec.*

YOU are hereby required and directed, with the *Elizabeth* tender under your command, to make the best of your way up to windward, through the capes of the windward passage, for looking out for Capt. *Laws* in the *Greenwich*, to windward of *Cape Nicola*, were you are to use all possible diligence for finding him, and delivering him the orders you have from me, for him, and then to put yourself under his command, and obey all such orders as he shall give you for his Majesty's service. For *Ec.* Given on board the *Boyne*, this 17th of *August*, 1742.

To Lieut. *Saunders*, appointed to command the *Elizabeth* sloop tender.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received yours of this day by Capt. *Wentworth*, and the men of your regiment on board the *Grafton* shall be landed at *Ch. Isea*, on any day that you shall desire it.

The intelligence I have had by the return of the *Seaborse*, from *St. Jago*, I am at present connecting together for our future consideration at our next general council of war, which I believe you will agree with me, should be held upon the full of the moon, whether we have advices from *Eng-*



land before, or not; for on this occasion, I have nothing that has the face of a publick letter, but one from the Secretary of the Admiralty, to acknowledge having received my letters by the *Prince Frederick* and *Bristol*.

I find the forces from *Porto Rico*, together with the convoy, all went into *St. Jago*, a midshipman (released from prison there) calls them sixteen hundred men, and says, the report there was, that if they had arrived before our return to *Jamaica*, their design was to have made a descent on the north side of *Jamaica*, and that they hope yet for a favourable occasion for it.

As the ships and sloops there are said to be bound, part to the *Havanna* and *La Vera Cruz*, and part to *Carthagena*, I am in want of ships to put to sea after the full moon, and as the *Grafton* is the best I have to depend on, for a short cruize in the neighbourhood of this island, I shall be obliged to you for ordering it so, that some other detachment might be ready to embark to supply their places, unless you intend these may reembark again after the review, my intent being only to employ her very near this island. But if they are to be changed, then it would be a conveniency to embark those to succeed them upon the landing those of your regiment at *Chelsea*.

As I think it will be of importance to dispatch the *Sheerness* home, as soon as we have stood the brunt of this full moon, I beg the favour you would have your letters, to go by her, ready the 3d of *September* at night. I am,

28 August, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,  
Hon. General *Wentworth*. *E. Vernon.*

S I R,

General *Wentworth* having wrote to me to be acquainted with the day fixed for the *Sheerness* sailing for *England*, I informed him yesterday of my intention to dispatch her for *England*, upon the full of the moon, and desired he would have his letters for going by her ready by the 3d of *September*, at night, which I thought proper to send your Excellency advice of, and to desire you would likewise have such letters as you intend sending by her, ready against that time.

The advices I have had by the return of the *Seaborse*, from her cruize off *St. Jago de Cuba*, have, amongst others, determined me to dispatch the *Sheerness* away then, whether we have any fresh advices from *England*, or not; for on this occasion, by the *Lark*, I have nothing that has the appearance

ance of a publick letter, but one from the Secretary of the Admiralty, to acknowledge having received my letters by the *Prince Frederick* and *Bristol*.

The principal part of the information of Mr. *Scott*, the midshipman, released from imprisonment at *St. Jago de Cuba*, is that the convoy with the troops from *Porto Rico*, are arrived at *St. Jago de Cuba*, and he says they have sixteen hundred regular forces, and that the report there was, that if these reinforcements had arrived before our return to *Jamaica*, their design was to have made a descent with them from thence on the north side of *Jamaica*, and that they hope yet for a favourable occasion for it.

I believe your Excellency will judge this information a proper precaution for your giving all necessary orders, for your fort at *Port Antonio* being put in the best condition for defence, as that would probably be their first view, on thinking they had an opportunity for it.

And as the enemy are receiving reinforcements, at a time we have no news of any coming hither; and our strength is lessening by great desertions, (as well as death) which I mentioned to your Excellency at our last council of war, they were much favoured in, by profligate punch-house keepers being guides to them, through the two passes into *Liguanea*, the one by Mr. *Ripley's*, and the other called the *Old Spanish Path*, which as I look on to be of the most dangerous consequence to the security of this island, to have them frequented, or not timely taken care to be well guarded, I then took the liberty to recommend to your Excellency the inspecting them, and placing guards to prevent any future intercourse that way, and considering how they could be best defended, which, I was persuaded, Gen. *Wentworth* would give you all necessary assistance in, on your desiring it; and believed the neighbouring gentlemen would not refuse the use of some outhouse, for sheltering a guard to be kept there, at your Excellency's request.

And I have mentioned to Gen. *Wentworth*, that I believe he will agree with me, it would be for his Majesty's service to hold another general council of war, on the full of the moon; and if he approves of it, I will take care to send your Excellency timely notice of it. I am,

Kingston, Jamaica,  
29th Aug. 1742.

S I R,

your Excellency's most  
obedient humble servant,

His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

HAVING communicated your letter of the 29th instant to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, in which you are pleased to say, you join in opinion with me, that a council of war should be held about the time of the full moon, to deliberate upon what is to be done at the present conjuncture :

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon considering with me to day, the intelligence come to hand since our last general council of war, we are of opinion, that the convening of the said general council of war should not be delayed, longer than the time you have approved of. And having pitched upon Saturday the 4th of *September* for a proper time for the same being held, this comes to give you early advice, that on Saturday the 4th of *September*, the signal for a general council of war of sea and land officers will be made on board his Majesty's ship *Boyne*, who shall be kept where she now rides off the hospital, for the mutual conveniency of every one to repair to assist at the said general council of war, by eight o'clock that morning, and we desire you will be pleased to bring Mr. *Blakeney*, with you.

A barge with an officer shall be in attendance for you, either at the *King's Wharf*, at *Kingston*, or at the *New Hospital Wharf*, or wherever else you shall desire; the like notice and summons will be sent to Gov. *Trelawney*, and a barge with an officer will be at *Passage* fort, or the *King's* hospital, that morning in attendance for his Excellency as he may desire. We are,

*Kingston, Aug. 30,* Sir, your most obedient humble servants,  
1742. *E. Vernon:*  
*C. Ogle.*

P. S. The detachment of your regiment on board the *Grafton* is ordered to be landed at *Chelsea* to morrow morning, and the Lieut. coming up with them is directed to take down the detachment ordered in their room, which you will be pleased to give the necessary orders in.

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

I Have received yours of this day, and will take care to have a barge in attendance at Mr. *Manning's* wharf on Saturday morning for Mr. *Blakeney* as you desire.

I entirely agree with you, Sir, in sentiments, that all personal animosity, or even the appearance of it, should be laid aside, when the publick interest is at stake, and hope I have made it the constant rule of my actions. And should on this occasion have paid a regard to the inclinations of Mr.

*Tre-*

*Trelawney*, on your approval of it, to have appointed it at the *South-sea* house, (though I know of no regular way of summoning one, but that directed by our instructions) though that was liable to inconveniencies to myself, and might be much more so to our proceedings, as I have only there all my papers and maps at hand, we may have occasion to have recourse to, if a surprizing incident, which I am persuaded had not then come to your knowledge had not prevented it.

But Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, being under prosecution at the instance of Governor *Trelawney*, for an assault at our last meeting at his house; I am persuaded you would think me, Sir, greatly to blame to summons him to a meeting within his jurisdiction, and will therefore think following the prescribed rule the more prudent on this occasion.

As to the exchange of the forces on board the *Boyne*, that shall be on any day you desire it, and you judge very rightly that I should be far from disapproving of having a greater number of sergeants and corporals, to the proportion of men, to replace those now on board. I am,

*Kingson, Aug. 31,*

S I R,

your most obedient humble servant,

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Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Received your Excellency's letter of the 31st of *August* last night, owning the receipt of my letter of the 29th, and of the joint letter from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me of the 30th, and I have received an answer by Gen. *Wentworth's* letter of yesterday, that he will assist at the council of war, to be assembled on board the *Boyne*, a Saturday morning with Mr. *Blakeney*.

And as a just regard for the security of this valuable island, his Majesty has confided the care to your government, must necessarily be a principal consideration with us, in regard to it's weak state, for defence of itself; I persuade myself on recollection you will be pleased to favour us with your company to assist at it.

Probably on reflecting on what has past since our last council, your Excellency will judge with me, I could not summons the council of war meeting but agreeable to my general instructions, which were then shown your Excellency.

But however you may determine, I will at all events have an officer with a barge in attendance for your Excellency at six o'clock at *Passage Fort*, Saturday morning, and the signal



nal will be made on board the *Boyne*, at seven, who lies as near as she well can that way, for our assembling at eight o'clock. I am,

1st Sept. 1742.

your Excellency's

most obedient humble servant,

To his Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas you have already had my orders, for having your ship in readiness for sailing for *England*, with dispatches of importance for his Majesty's service, which you are speedily to be dispatched away with, after the general council of war to be held on board the *Boyne*, on Saturday the 4th instant:

You are hereby required and directed to have his Majesty's ship the *Sheerness*, under your command, in readiness for sailing on Monday, the sixth of *September* next, and to have your victualling completed to three months, and to be with me on Sunday evening, for receiving my dispatches for his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, his Majesty's principal Secretary of State, and others.

And as soon as you shall have received from me my dispatches for the Secretary of State, according to the importance of the service, you are not, at your peril, to lose any time in proceeding to sea, but are strictly required and directed to make the best of your way with them to *England*, and to endeavour for *Spithead*, as the nearest port, for your riding up post with them, or to the first port you can fetch in the channel, from whence you are to go up immediately post yourself, with my dispatches for the Secretary of State and admiralty; going directly first to the Secretary of State, to deliver your letter to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, and wait for knowing his pleasure, before you proceed to deliver any other letter whatever; and when the Secretary of State has done with you, you will proceed to deliver my letter to the Earl of *Winchelsea*, first Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, and then that to the Secretary of the Admiralty, writing into the board, for their Lordships directions for your further proceedings, and taking particular care to leave such orders behind you, as no letters go ashore, till you can have delivered your letters to the Secretary of State, in other respects referring you to the directions in my former general orders. For &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 2d of *Sept.* 1742.

To Capt. *Ward* of the *Sheerness*.

*E. Vernon.*

By,

By, &amp;c.

Whereas you are now cleaned, and completely fitted for the sea, as the long since intended convoy for the transports, that are preparing to put to sea under your convoy:

You are hereby required and directed to hold yourself in readiness for sailing the instant you shall have an account, that the said transports are ready to proceed with you, and to be immediately preparing sailing orders for all the transports, that are to go under your convoy, and to make the signals, for the said masters, for knowing when they can be ready to sail with you, and giving out your sailing instructions to them, for their observing your signals, and keeping you company; and as I shall give my general orders for your conduct, and government, sealed, to be opened when you are without the keys of *Port Royal, Jamaica*, you are to come to me, for them, the day before your said convoy shall be ready to sail, which you will facilitate all you can; and let me know as soon as you can, when you judge they will be ready to sail with you, that I may get the *Spy* ready if I can, for proceeding with you under your orders.

And whereas your former orders were only to complete your victualling to three months, you will now complete your victualling to four months, if you can stow the same; so as to keep your ship in condition for service. For &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 6th of *September*, 1742.

To Capt. *Broderick* of the *Shoreham*.

*E. Vernon.*

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace were of the 5th and 8th of *August*, by Capt. *Trevor*, duplicates of which accompany my present letter to your Grace.

Having on the 10th of *August* received a joint letter from Gen. *Wentworth*, Mr. *Blakeney* and Gov. *Trelawney*, desiring the *Rattan* convoy might be delayed sailing, who were to have sailed the next day, and that another council of war might be speedily summoned, on consulting Sir *Chaloner Ogle* upon it, I gave the orders for the delay desired, and we joined in the summons for the council of war being held accordingly on board the *Boyne* on the 12th, and I send your Grace inclosed copies of their joint letter of the 10th and ours of the same date in answer to it, and for summoning them to the said council, which was accordingly held, on board the *Boyne*, on the 12th, and you have also inclosed a copy of the resolution of our said general council of war,

and what they were pleased to desire to be annexed to it, and I dispatched the *Rattan* convoy to sea the next morning, being the 13th of *August*.

And Mr. *Parsons*, who brought me the letter from *William Bull*, Esq; from *South Carolina*, acquainting me he proposed sailing on his return back to *Carolina*, on the 14th in the morning, I delivered him the 13th in the evening, my letter to Lieut. Gov. *Bull*, which I send your Grace herewith a copy of, and a copy of my orders for his Majesty's ships, inclosed in it, and I sent Mr. *Bull* likewise a copy of the resolutions of our said general council of war, of the 12th of *August*; and having desired Mr. *Parsons* to set me down in writing some account of their present strength, and situation of *South Carolina*, I send your Grace a copy of the account, he gave me of it, and of such of his Majesty's ships as were then in their harbour.

Lieut. *Farish*, of the *Grafton*, having been a prisoner at the *Havanna*, in the beginning of the year 1740, I send your Grace inclosed a copy of his account of what quarter galleys and launches he then observed to be at the *Havanna*, and were said to be the remainder of what had been prepared for the intended expedition against *Georgia*, in the year 1733, when one *Savay* (now a Lieut. in the *American* regiment,) was to have been their conductor; and these, I conclude, are the same vessels that they are now said to be set out on the said expedition with.

By a letter from Capt. *Tucker* of the *Fowey*, of the 11th of *August*, by a sloop he has sent in here, he informs me he has looked into *Port Louis*, pursuant to my orders, where there were only ten merchant ships, and that by advices from those sailed from thence, there had been no *French* men of war there for this six months past.

Having advice of numbers of *English* seamen being at *Port François*, either from *Spanish* privateers brought in there, or otherwise, and of the Gov. there being diligent in sending them all to *France*; I thought it for his Majesty's service to send Capt. *Laws* the orders your Grace has inclosed a copy of by one of my sloop tenders, from which I have the double view of procuring the release of his Majesty's subjects, preventing the like practices for the future, and gaining a fuller information of the situation, entrance, and strength of the said port.

On the 20th the *Greenwich*, Capt. *Laws*, came in here with a ship, who though pretending to be a *French* man, he had advice both before and since the capture, of her being loaded

loaded by a *Spaniard*, and bound to the *Havanna*, and *Lá Vera Cruz*, and having wrung the head of his foremast came himself with her. But as the sloop with the orders missed of him I am persuaded Capt. *Draper*, of the *Adventure*, on the orders coming to his hands, will take care to put them duly in execution as is his duty being next in command.

The 20th of *August* threatened us with some appearances of a hurricane; but, I thank God, it did not come to that, though it was a hard gale of wind, with heavy showers of rain.

On the 25th of *August*, returned into port Capt. *Durell* in the *Seahorse* from cruizing off *St. Jago de Cuba*, under the orders I had sent him to sea with, both for the better security of our homeward-bound fleet, under the convoy of the *Strafford*, and endeavouring to procure the release of Capt. *Wyllis*, from whom I hoped to receive the most material advices for his Majesty's service. And I now send your Grace inclosed a copy of Capt. *Durell*'s orders, and the letter I sent by him to the Governor of *St. Jago de Cuba*, with the said Governor's answer to it, returned to me by Capt. *Durell*; by which you will see they have thought proper to destine Capt. *Wyllis* and his mate, Mr. *Duany*, to be sent to the *Havanna*: and there comes also herewith a letter from the Governor of *St. Jago de Cuba* to the *Spanish* Colonel of dragoons, Don *Alonso de Arcos y Merina*, who was sent to *England* in the *Strafford*.

I send your Grace likewise inclosed a copy of a material information from Mr. *Scott*, a midshipman of the *Sbeerness*, who has been a prisoner with them since *January* last: and as your Grace will see in that information, that Mr. *Duany* was for the second time put to the torture, in his presence, in order to compel him to support some false accusation against Capt. *Wyllis*, it is no surprize to me, they should not release so greatly injured a gentleman, that the injuries and injustice done him may be kept, as long as they can, concealed from the world. I am sorry the example of a contrary behaviour, on my part, to all *Spanish* prisoners, cannot have procured a change in their brutal behaviour to our prisoners. But I shall, however, persevere in pursuing the sentiments of humanity: that, I am persuaded, is most agreeable to the sentiments of our Royal Master, and most for his Majesty's honour and service. And I believe, on reading the whole information, your Grace will think I have judged right, in fishing for the best evidence I could procure, by means of this pretence of an exchange of prisoners.



And as I am inclined to think they have naval stores to carry to the *Havanna*, as well as the mast ship, and have lately had an account of Capt. *Bedlow*, one of our coast traders, that five hundred seamen were sent from *Carthagena*, on the 16th of *July* last, in a *Biscay* snow and a sloop, for the *Havanna*; I am inclined to think this looks like their squadron at the *Havanna* being speedily to be refitted for going home, or on some expedition; but as I conceive they may be straitened for money at home, my judgment leads me to think, they may be designed to leave the *Havanna*, for going home, between this and *November* next, before the *Norths* set in. This account of taking this mast ship from *New England* is, that she came in amongst them six days before they made *Porto Rico*, and that she run in amongst them without their chasing her, and was taken without the ceremony of firing a gun at her; and I wish, from this conduct, she was not heartily insured.

Mr. *Woodcock*, a merchant of one of the best characters here, having favoured me with a paragraph of a letter he received from a merchant of good character in *South Carolina*, and dated a day later than those I received from Lieut. Gov. *Bull*, I send your Grace copies of Mr. *Woodcock*'s letter and of the paragraph of that from *South Carolina* inclosed, as I find this gentleman's sentiments on that expedition very agreeable to my own.

And judging these intelligences of importance for his Majesty's information, I have determined on forwarding them to your Grace by the *Sheerness*, as soon as we have stood the brunt of this full moon; and have accordingly, on the 28th of *August*, wrote to Gen. *Wentworth*, to desire he would have his letters ready to go by her, by the 3d of *September* at night, and the next day to Gov. *Trelawney*, to the same effect; advising them of the ships and forces from *Porto Rico* being arrived at *St. Jago de Cuba*, and adding, that I believe he would agree with me, it would be proper we should hold a general council of war upon the full moon, and that I was collecting all my informations for being laid before them.

The *Lark*, Capt. *Waring*, with the two naval storeships, I thank God, arrived safe here on the 28th of *August*, and had learnt in their passing by the leeward islands, that they had felt some effects of a hurricane this new moon there; but as they only sent a boat ashore at *St. Christopher's* for intelligence, in their passing by, only heard two or three ships had been drove ashore there.

I am

I am in hopes the *Spaniards* at *St. Jago de Cuba* will observe their usual precautions of not putting to sea till the next full moon being past, and the sun having passed the equinox; and I am hurrying all I can to have sufficient of my crazy shattered ships for putting to sea before that time, for endeavouring to intercept those going both for the *Havanna* or *Carthagena*.

The *Ludlow Castle* and *Shoreham*, both clean ships, and destin'd for the convoy of any troops, that may from future intelligence be judged necessary to be sent to *South Carolina*, I cannot think of appointing to any other service, till a future council of war should advise it. But as we hear as yet no subsequent advices from *South Carolina*, I hope, according to Mr. *Wrogg's* opinion as well as my own, that the speedy assembling of the northern stationed ships will have dispersed that cloud already.

As I have received no letters from your Grace on this occasion, and it being now ten months since my receiving the last from your Grace, I cannot but impatiently wish for that honour and favour. And having heard by private letters, that the *Chester*, with our letters from *Porto Bello*, passed by *Plimouth* on the 26th of *June* last, I live in daily hopes it cannot be long before I am honoured with that favour, by some ship or vessel, sent out express on that occasion, as there is now sufficient time elapsed since for such a one's arrival here.

Gen. *Wentworth*, in his letter to me of the 29th of *August*, joining in opinion with me, that a council of war should be held about the time of the full moon, to deliberate on what is to be done at the present conjuncture; immediately after, on consulting with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* on the several intelligences received, we joined in letters to Gen. *Wentworth* and Gov. *Trelawney*, dated the 30th, desiring them to assist at a general council of war on board the *Boyne*, on Saturday morning the 4th day of *September*; and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of our letter to Gen. *Wentworth*, that to Gov. *Trelawney* being of the same tenor.

On the first of *September* arrived here a schooner from *South Carolina*, with two letters from Lieut. Gov. *Bull*, of the 20th and 24th of *July*, and an affidavit of one *Stephen Beeson*, of the 14th of *July*, who left Mr. *Oglethorpe* on the 7th, two days later than the former; copies of all which I send your Grace inclosed, and shall detain the *Sheerness* to Monday the 6th, for bringing your Grace inclosed the copies of our resolution of our council of war of Saturday next the 4th instant.

And I am glad to acquaint your Grace he sent me likewise inclosed two letters, one from the officer of the train, and the other from the master of the *Susanna* ordnance storeship, who was anchored safely at *Black River*, on this island, in the middle of *May*, and afterwards of the west end of it, and contrived to lose the island afterwards, and straggle through the gulph of *Babana*, and providentially at last to get safe to *Brunswick* on *Cape Fare River* in *North Carolina*; and I send copies of those letters to the board of ordnance; and had a pleasure to find by them that the *Vesuvius* fireship had on the 20th of *June* got safe through the gulph with my letters for your Grace; which I doubt not now are come safe to your hands, having escaped the principal danger in passing by the *Spanish* Squadron at the *Havanna*.

To my great surprize, I was on the 3d instant summoned to attend a trial of Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, for an assault, at the suit of Gov. *Trelawney*, who was himself the only evidence to prove it; and having in my hand a copy of Gov. *Trelawney's* narrative, I found his evidence given upon oath to be nearly in substance the same as his narrative, rather given more inconsistently, if possible; so must take the liberty to send your Grace now inclosed a copy of the said narrative, now proved to be his upon oath, by his evidence; and by my letter to your Grace of the 5th of *August*, you had my relation of the particulars, which have been the substance of my evidence at the trial, which you have likewise to accompany this letter, in the duplicate of my letter to your Grace by the *Strafford*; and will, I am persuaded, hear on all hands that Gov. *Trelawney* himself was fully proved to be the aggressor, both in first applying the injurious words to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and drawing his sword upon him in his own house, as my eyes were employed in watching the motions of Gov. *Trelawney*, now evidenced by himself to have transported himself to a rage, that put him besides his senses; and indeed nothing but such a supposition can excuse him, on his pretended ignorance of what was so notoriously manifest, makes it the less extraordinary he should choose to rest all upon his own evidence, and would not call in for the evidence of any of his servants, that could not be ignorant he had his sword drawn, one of them being said to have his finger cut in their getting away his sword from him.

On the 4th I held the general council of war, on board the *Boyne*, where the absence of our inexperienced, flighty, passionate Governor gave us leisure for a long, calm, and mature deliberation on all circumstances of evidences before

us; and though we came together in differing sentiments, we calmly, and as become officers, reasoned ourselves into the unanimous resolutions that I now send your Grace inclosed the copy of; and have the pleasure to acquaint you, that though it took us up the whole day, we met and parted with great civility.

Gov. *Bull's* letters mentioned some successes Mr. *Oglethorpe* had over the *Spaniards*, and a private letter being brought us, expressing particulars, before we separated, I thought proper to send your Grace the copy of that part of it; though, if true, your Grace will doubtless have had earlier intelligence of it. Begging your Grace to excuse all incorrectness in regard to the hurry of business I have on my hands, and being obliged to make use of two hands in your Grace's letter, by my secretary having been for some days ill of a fever. I am,

My Lord Duke,  
your Grace's most devoted  
and obedient humble servant,

*Boyne, Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, Sept. 6, 1742.*

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE received your letter of this day's date; and when I acquaint you that I am summoned to attend a trial of Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to morrow morning, at *Spanish Town*, for offences, I know he never committed, I am sure you cannot but agree with me, I ought not to alter the place of summons on board the *Boyne*, on Saturday morning; and have wrote to Gov. *Trelawney*, why I think he ought not to excuse himself from attendance.

I will not fail to return on board the *Boyne*, for holding the said council of war, at eight o'clock on Saturday morning, and there shall be barges in attendance for you and Mr. *Blakeney* both at the *South Sea* house and King's wharf; and should Mr. *Trelawney* refuse paying obedience to the summons and signal, I am persuaded our zeal for his Majesty's service will, by mature deliberation, prevent that suffering from his absence. I am,

S I R,

*Kingston, Sept. 2, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

your most obedient  
humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

THE *Defiance*, Capt. *Hore*, one of my sixty gun ships that is refitted and will be ready to put to sea, for the



the present service, on Thursday morning next, having at present none of your forces on board, and being greatly short of complement;

I must beg the favour you will be pleased to order her an immediate supply of a detachment of sixty men, including officers, for going on board her on Wednesday, and the boats shall attend to take them off wherever you shall direct.

Be pleased to let your letters be on board the *Sheerness* to night, as she will be under sail before it is day to morrow morning. I am,

*Boyne, Sept. 6, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

THIS comes only to inclose to you the copy of the resolutions of our last council of war.

And to acquaint you, the *Shoreham*, Capt. *Brodrick*, appointed to command the convoy, is ready to put to sea, and the *Spy* intended for the said service will be ready in two or three days, either to accompany him or follow him, as she can soon come up with the convoy. I am,

*Kingsfon, Sept. 7, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient,  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

ON the first of this month *September* I received from *David Marshall*, master of the *Joseph* schooner, your two letters from *Carolina*, of the 20th and 24th of *July*, with the inclosed affidavit of *Stephen Beedon*.

And I have had a general council of war assembled on board his Majesty's ship *Boyne*, on the 4th instant, in which we have maturely taken into deliberation both the advices you sent us and what came by other ways to our hands, and have taken such resolutions on them as, I doubt not, will be acceptable to you and all under your government; the particulars of which will be improper to send you an account of by this schooner, who says he designs to sail in return to you to morrow, for fear he should fall into the enemy's hands, and the more unnecessary, as I shall have occasion to convey them to you with security very suddenly, when you will not only be informed of our resolutions, for paying a due regard to your representations, but to the execution of them likewise, the most material point.

My

My answer to your first letter by Mr. *Parsons*, of the 13th of *August*, with the orders annexed, for fear they might have met any accident in their way, I send you a copy of, on this occasion; and have the pleasure to acquaint you, we have been preparing for succouring of you, as occasions might require, ever since my last, my convoy being ready for putting to sea, as I doubt not all will be on the General's part in a very few days: by which occasion I shall have a proper opportunity of communicating all particulars to you; and it was with great pleasure we found, by a letter from Mr. *David Dias*, that the succours from your parts were so seasonably arrived off *St. Simon's*, and was attended with such happy successes. I am,

S I R,

your most obedient,  
humble servant,

*Boyne, Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, Sept. 7, 1742.*

Hon. *William Bull*, Esq. Lieut.  
Gov. of *South Carolina*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

AFTER congratulating you on every thing having turned out so much to your honour and credit, on the shameful attack made on you by the Governor; and with my thanks for your care in forwarding every thing below:

As Capt. *Waring* called here this morning, to tell me his ship was placed to your satisfaction, and that he was going to land his guns, agreeable to your orders;

I thought proper to advise you, as she will lye well posted for a defence both of the King's yard and *Port Royal* town, by flanking the defenceless part of it, in case of an attack, that I would have at least one half of her lower tier of guns left in her; as that will clear room enough for the sweep of the capstones, and have a full battery remaining fit for service on any emergency requiring it; and for the rest of the guns, that are to be landed at the yard, I think their gun-carriages should be landed with them, and the said gun-carriages put under a shed in the yard, that they may be ready at hand for mounting them for the defence of the yard and town, on any emergency requiring it.

I will have Capt. *Laurence's* orders ready for him against the evening, for the windward station, and the island sloop has my orders, and will go to sea with him to morrow, and the *Defiance* will, I hope, be ready to follow him the next day. As soon as I can get over the writing all my orders and letters,

letters, I will make you a visit at *Port Royal*; and pray be pleased to send out the brig whenever it is ready. I am,

S I R,

*Kingston, Sept. 7, 1742.*

your most obedient  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

Sir *Chaloner Ogle.*

By, &c.

WHereas we have had certain advices of several large *Spanish* ships, with brigantines, and a number of sloops being lately put into the harbour of *St. Jago de Cuba*, which are supposed to be partly designed for *Carthagera*, and part for the *Havanna* and *La Vera Cruz*:

As you are designed for lying in the way, for the intercepting of those that may be bound for the *Havanna* or *La Vera Cruz*, with his Majesty's ship *Grafton* under your command, and the *Ludlow Castle* and *Adventure*, whose captains have my orders to put themselves under your command, as will such others as I may be able to get ready to send after you:

You are hereby required and directed to proceed to sea, with all possible diligence, with his Majesty's ships the *Grafton*, and the *Ludlow Castle* and *Adventure*; and as soon as you are at sea, to bear away to leeward, for running down to leeward of this island, and then to stretch over for *Cape Cruiz*, on the island of *Cuba*, and to cruize a little to windward of the said *Cape Cruiz* for the space of seven days, as a probable station for the intercepting all ships or vessels going for the *Havanna* or *La Vera Cruz*; at the expiration of which term, you will ply up to windward, for cruizing off *St. Jago*, for the space of seven days, and for meeting my windward cruizers, detached under the orders of Capt. *Laurence* of the *Tilbury*, on joining of whom you are to put yourself under his command. But, if by any accident you should be prevented in that, you are, at the expiration of the said seven days, with the ships under your orders, to proceed to the next place of general rendezvous, to windward of the east end of this island; where you will either join him, or continue cruizing in the said station, for the protection of our own trade, the annoyance of that of the enemy, and lying in the way for my coming up to join you, upon any advices of a *French* war; and if such advices shall have called me up to windward, you will either find me cruizing for you, or some ship or vessel with orders from me for you: but, on meeting neither, after cruizing in that station for a week, you are to return to this port, for my orders for your farther proceedings.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons, or effects, wherever you shall meet the same on the seas; as you will all ships or vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 7th of September, 1742.

To Capt. *Allen* of the *Grafton*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas I have had certain advices of several large *Spanish* ships being lately put into the harbour of *St. Jago de Cuba*, which are supposed to be partly designed for *Carthagera*, and part for the *Havanna*, and *La Vera Cruz*:

As you are designed for lying in the way, for intercepting those that may be bound for *Carthagera*, with his Majesty's ship the *Tilbury* under your command, together with the *Defiance* and the *Island* sloop, whose respective commanders have received my orders for putting themselves under your command:

You are hereby required and directed, as your ship and the *Island* sloop are got ready for proceeding to sea, to put to sea to morrow morning, leaving your orders for the captain of the *Defiance* to put to sea after you, as soon as possible, and make the best of his way to join you, in your first rendezvous appointed you in these orders, to leeward of the *Navassa*, delivering to him your said rendezvous in sealed orders, not to be opened till he is without the keys.

And as a little to leeward, within sight of the *Navassa*, is, in my apprehension, the most probable station for your lying in the way to intercept any ships or vessels going from *St. Jago* for *Carthagera*; you are hereby required and directed to make the best of your way, after your being got to sea, for beating up into the said cruising station, where you are to continue cruising for ten days; at the expiration of which you will stretch over for the island of *Cuba*, taking care to be far enough to windward to weather the *Formigas*; and you will afterwards cruize for a week just to windward of the harbour of *St. Jago*, where you may expect, before the expiration of that time, to meet my cruisers, that have come up from to leeward of this island; with whom having conferred



ferred on the intelligence you have, you are all to return to cruize to windward of the east end of this island, for the protection of our own trade, the annoyance of that of the enemy, and lying in the way for my coming up to join you, upon any advices of a *French* war; and if such advices should have called me up to windward, you will either find me cruizing for you, or some ship or vessel with orders from me for you; but meeting neither, after cruizing there for a week you will return to this port; and the command, on this latter service, after your joining off *St. Jago*, to be in you, or the senior captain of you detached on those services.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation, to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons, or effects, wherever you shall meet the same on the seas; as you will all ships or vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne* in *Port Royal* harbour, this 7th of *September*, 1742.

To Capt. *Lawrence* of the *Tilbury*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE just now received your's by Capt. *Wentworth*, and was glad to hear the copy of the resolutions of our late council of war, of the 4th instant, was safe come to your hands. As by our latest intelligence from *Carolina*, our frigates were masters of the sea there, as I know we are in these parts, I am entirely satisfied, that the *Shoreham* and *Spy* is a very sufficient convoy for the transports going to *Carolina*, and know they are the only vessels we have ready for the sea, that can be of any service in those parts; however, I will order the *Fowey*, a forty gun ship, to accompany Capt. *Broderick*, and see them safe through the windward passage, for their greater security.

I have taken care to draw up my instructions for Capt. *Broderick*, conformable to the resolutions of our council of war; as I doubt not, but you will do your's, for the commanding officer of the forces; and hope, they will not hazard prejudicing his Majesty's affairs, by presuming to act contrary to them; which I shall recommend to Capt. *Broderick*, not to presume to do at his peril; and I think I know

know him to be so prudent an officer, that there will be no hazard of it on his side.

Being informed of Mr. *Savey* having said, he had cost the Crown of *Britain* two millions already, and would cost them more, and was going into the *Spanish* service; I thought such traitorous declarations required a speedy remedy; and I have accordingly taken care to stop him, as I knew he was agreeing to go off this island. I am,

*Kingsfon, Sept. 8.*  
1742.

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servant,

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas you are appointed to be one of the convoy to the transports speedily to put to sea under convoy of Capt. *Broderick*, of his Majesty's ship *Shoreham*:

You are hereby required and directed to put yourself under the orders and command of Capt. *Broderick* in the *Shoreham*, and carefully to obey all such orders as you shall receive from him, and to complete your present victualling to four months, if you can stow the same, so as to have your sloop in condition for service, with all possible expedition for your sailing with him. For, &c. Given under my hand, on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 8th of *Sept.* 1742.

To Capt. *Newman* of the *Spy* sloop.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas it has been resolved in a general council of war, of the 4th of *September*, to dispatch from hence a succour of five hundred of his Majesty's forces, for the preservation of his Majesty's colonies of *Carolina* and *Georgia*, the latter of which was in *July* last invaded, and a descent made on the island of *St. Simonds*, from small embarkations from the *Havanna* and *St. Augustine*:

As you are already fitted for the sea for proceeding on the said expedition, as the *Spy*, Capt. *Newman*, will in a day or two, for proceeding with you, or following you, whose Captain has my orders for putting himself under your command:

You are hereby required and directed, with his Majesty's ship *Shoreham* under your command, together with the *Spy* sloop (whose Captain has my orders to put himself under your command) to take under your care, protection

and convoy, all the transports appointed by Gen. *Wentworth*, for the conveying the said succour of five hundred men to *Charles Town* in *South Carolina*, whose names, as signified to me by the Agent of transports, are in the margin.

*Constant*  
*Jane, John*  
*and Sarah,*  
*Charming*  
*Milly, Duke*  
*of Cumber-*  
*land, Ann,*  
*Sea Nymph,*  
*Prince William.*

And on your arrival there with the said convoy, you are in all respects to govern yourself as becomes the duty of a prudent and experienced officer, in employing the force under your command, and all such of his Majesty's ships as you shall find there, that are junior officers than yourself; or in case of there being a senior officer to you there, to act under his orders in such manner, as shall be judged in a council of war, to be assembled for that purpose, most advisable for his Majesty's service, and for the preservation of the said colonies of *Carolina* and *Georgia*, you are sent to exert yourself in the defence of, in such manner as shall be judged most prudent, in a joint council of war, of sea and land officers, to be convened in equal numbers, as you, or the commanding officer of his Majesty's ships, and the commanding officer of the detachment of forces, shall judge most expedient; at which council you are to give your advice, for the Lieut. Governor of *South Carolina* being desired to assist at it, and on many enterprizes to be undertaken at sea, you will claim it as your right to preside at such councils, and assist at those for any enterprizes to be undertaken by land, on the commanding officer of the forces desiring it of you; and give your vigorous assistance for the execution of every enterprize that shall be judged by a council of war to be for his Majesty's honour and service, and for the preservation of the said colonies of *Carolina* and *Georgia*: and you have together with these orders, one of my general orders for all Captains of his Majesty's ships, stationed on the northern colonies, joining and exerting themselves in the defence of his Majesty's colonies, pursuant to their general orders.

And as there is now in *Cape Fear* river, in *North Carolina*, the *Susanna* ordnance storeship, in case you, and the commanding officer of the forces, shall judge it for his Majesty's service, to make use of any of the ordnance stores on board of her, you are hereby impowered and directed on joint concurrence with the commanding officer of the forces, to direct the issue of such stores, as may be found necessary for his Majesty's service, and preservation of the said colonies; and at all events, as soon as you can spare her, you will send the *Spy*, or some other sloop, to  
convoy

convoy the said ordnance storeship from *Cape Fare* river, where she now lies, to *Charles Town*, in *South Carolina*, for her being at hand, for all supplies that may be wanted from her, or proceeding with the convoy as his Majesty's service may require. But in case, on your arrival at *South Carolina*, it should be found, that it should have pleased God so far to favour the zeal of his Majesty's forces in those parts, that they should have entirely repulsed the *Spaniards*, that it should be judged by a general council of war, that those provinces of *Carolina* and *Georgia* had nothing to fear from the *Spaniards*, and were in sufficient condition for their own defence :

You are in such case, on it's being resolved in a general council of war, of sea and land officers, that those provinces had not any thing more to apprehend from the *Spaniards*, to use all possible diligence for your returning to this port, with the transports and forces under your convoy ; which the utmost diligence will be requisite in, if there should come any advices of a *French* war, in regard to the security of this valuable island, which is of the utmost importance to his Majesty.

And you are carefully to cultivate a good understanding with the commanding officer of his Majesty's land forces, as from such a friendly union of councils and measures, as ought to subsist between the officers and servants of our Royal Master, the success of his arms is most securely to be relied on ; and that the want of such success may not in any sort be to be attributed to so unjustifiable a cause as dissention amongst the Crown's own officers, you are hereby strictly enjoined to furnish no just occasion for it, as you will answer the same at your peril.

The merchants having petitioned for a convoy through the windward passage, I have appointed Capt. *Tucker*, of the *Forsey*, to sail convoy to them, on *Monday* the 13th instant, and ordered him, in case you should sail at the same time, to accompany your convoy, as far as your way should lie together, and to put himself under your orders for that time, if he sails before you, and to cruize in the windward passage for the space of ten days, after his parting with his convoy, for the greater security of your convoy of transports, in case of their straggling far from you.

In other respects you are to conform to the particular directions in my former general orders in regard to his Majesty's enemies.

You



You are likewise required and directed to receive on board Capt. *Arthur Forrest*, and his servant, and victual them as you do your ship's company, having appointed him to the command of the *Hawk* sloop.

In case you find it necessary, from the enemy's having maintained a footing in any of his Majesty's colonies, to send me immediate advice of it, you will dispatch to me the *Hawk*, or *Spy* sloop, with the fullest advices of the situation of affairs in those parts, together with the commanding officer of the forces letter to the General, for our considering what may be further necessary for his Majesty's service. For, &c. Given under my hand, on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 8th of *September*, 1742.

To Capt. *Broderick*, Commander of his Majesty's ship the *Shoreham*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

YOUR letter was brought to me last night by Dr. *Hume*, at whose house I now am; and had you, Sir, signified your inclinations to me, for Col. *Durore* taking his passage in the *Shoreham*, I should have directed it as you desire; but having on the 8th given my orders to Capt. *Broderick* for the receiving Col. *Haldane*, as an old acquaintance of mine, and one who for his many amiable qualities is in high esteem with many friends of mine, who have recommended him to my good offices, and for receiving Major *Forrester*, as one he was inclined to oblige himself, and Capt. *Forrest*, as going to the command of the *Hawk* sloop, you will plainly perceive, Sir, there can't now be any desirable accommodation for Col. *Durore* aboard his ship; but as the *Spy*, Capt. *Newman*, is ready to sail with him, and shall have no one else ordered on board her, and as Capt. *Newman* is a good officer, and well bred gentleman, if Col. *Durore* pleases, I will order him and his servants a passage in her.

Affidavits having been made of the traitorous expressions uttered by *John Savey*, alias *Savy*, which had before come to my knowledge; I should have thought it in me a betraying the interests of our Royal Master, if I had not laid hold on him, to prevent his putting such his traitorous threatnings into actual execution; which I think he was going the ready way for, in having agreed for his passage, and put his things on board the brigantine *Martha*, *James Blythe* master, bound to *Carolina*; and as he is in detestation in

*Carolina*,

Ho

*Carolina*, and said to be under a sentence of death for a murder there, no one can think he would go there purely to be hanged: And each one knowing the present informations we have of the *Spaniards* neighbourhood to that province, may easily conceive, he can't take a properer course for deserting to the enemy, as he has declared his traitorous intentions for, than by going to them that way, where he may judge his informations to be of most present service for them, and of most dangerous consequence to the interests of our Royal Master.

Lieut. *Lowther* will this day put into your hands a copy of the relation that has been brought me of their proceedings, wherein is a piece of intelligence from a *French* trader on the coast, of a *French* squadron being coming to *Port François*, where they are to be joined by a *Spanish* squadron with more troops, and then to come to attack *Jamaica*.

I believe you, Sir, remember at our last general council of war, that I mentioned to the council, on the appearances of the *Spanish* squadron being prepared to leave the *Havana*, that I thought they could have but two intentions in it, the one for coming to meet a *French* squadron, in order jointly to attack this island; or to be going for *Europe*, with what treasure they could have collected together; and that as I thought the *French* in no condition now to send a squadron here, and that money was much wanted in *Spain*, I thought they were bound home, and for that reason was desirous of hastening the *Sheerness* home; and I mentioned then, that had been a proposition of Marquis *D'Antin* when he was here, and from that suppose this *French* trader has work'd up this story to please the *Spaniards*, and serve the interests of his trade.

Capt. *Broderick* has all his orders and directions from me, agreeable to the resolutions of our last council of war; and they are delivered to him sealed up, as you desired, for his opening them when he is without the keys of *Port Royal*; and I think I can answer for his prudence and resolution, in the due execution of them. And having all he wants from me, he is ready to put to sea the instant the transports with the troops shall be ready to accompany him, and has had his signal out, for all the masters coming to receive his orders and instructions for their keeping company with him.

*Port Royal, Sept. 10,*  
1742.

I am,

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

**S**IR *Chaloner Ogle* and I have read over your letter, just now brought me by *Capt. Douglass*; as we had together before *Mr. Vernon's* letter to you by *Capt. Douglass*, which was agreeable to both our sentiments. And having read over together the letters from *Gov. Tinker*, and the inclosed copies of the first advices from *Carolina*, which have been considered in two councils of war already; and *Lowther's* report of what he had heard from a *Spaniard*, at second hand from a *Frenchman* trading at *Coclee*; we are clearly of opinion, they furnish no sufficient foundation for convening of a council of war, and can by no means approve of it; and think delays to the speedy execution of our last general council of war to be of greatest prejudice to his Majesty's service, and that we ought not to consent to the convening a new one, till the other has been put in execution; especially as our last resolution is, to prepare at all events for a *French* war, which we are doing the utmost in our power for.

Orders are given for the exchange of the forces on board the *Rippon*, though your notice came almost too late for any preparation for it.

And we are clearly of opinion, there is no right in any officer to claim a passage in the men of war, though, through accustomed civility, it is seldom refused, when desired as such: And if *Col. Durore* has an inclination to go in the *Shoreham*, as well as those that have orders for it, the like orders will not be refused him. We are,

Port Royal, Sept. 10,  
1742.

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servants,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon,*  
*C. Ogle.*

S I R,

**I** Received your Excellency's letter last night, with the two inclosed from *Mr. Slaughter* and *Mr. Ripley*, which I return you inclosed as you desired.

I have myself rid by the house of *Mr. Slaughter* in the *River Course*, and pursued that pass as far further as I could on horseback; and have been at *Mr. Ripley's*, both these houses being above and below that one pass called the *River Course*; and *Mr. Ripley*, in his letter, explains to your Excellency, the course of the other pass which I mentioned to you by the same name, as he does the *Old Spanish Pass*, through one or other of which, many of our deserters have been

been conducted by some of the profligate punch house-keepers.

I have always mentioned to your Excellency, that I look upon *Liguanea*, in which is included the town of *Kingston*, and by securing the channel by *Musquetto Point*, may be included the harbour of *Kingston*, to be the natural and principal security of this island, and it's principal magazines of provisions and merchandize, which well deserves your consideration to guard all passes into it, as *Morant Bay*, and many places to leeward, are places for landing an army, and marching to *Kingston*, without attempting the harbour by sea; and I believe those passes, on being viewed by persons of judgment, together with *Rock Fort*, and that by the *Ferry*, might be easily made defensible at very little expence.

And the second natural bulwark and citadel of *Jamaica*, I take to be *Sixteen Mile Walk*, by the description I have had of it; which, I think, should be timely considered of, how to render the passes into it impregnable, which I apprehend to be matter of little charge too.

As I can have no view in this advice, but securing to his Majesty so valuable an island, and to the gentlemen who have estates in it, the preservation of their property, I am persuaded you will excuse my having frequently mentioned it to you, as deserving your consideration. I am,

Sept. 12, 1742.

S I R,

your Excellency's most  
obedient humble servant,

His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE received yours of the 11th, and before I had received it, I had spoke to Capt. *Broderick* to give Col. *Durore* a passage with him in his ship if he desired it, though I think he can't be so well accommodated there, as he might in the *Spy*, or in the transports; and I know no reason why he had not an order for it, but that he never applied for it; nor did I ever know any thing of his intention to go into the *Shoreham*, but from your letters; and as I shall be at *Port Royal* this evening, I shall give Capt. *Bredrick* an order for receiving him as desired. I am,

Sept. 12, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servant,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon.*



By, &amp;c.

**W**Hereas I have had information of some ships, and several sloops, and a brigantine, being in the harbour of *St. Jago*, bound as was said, part for the *Havanna*, and *La Vera Cruz*, and part for *Carthagena*, for the intercepting of which, I having ships moving to their appointed stations, both to windward and to leeward; and for your being in the way of intercepting them going to *Carthagena*, in case they should pass my windward cruisers; you are hereby required and directed to put to sea with all possible expedition, and as soon as you shall be without the keys, you are to stretch over directly for the main continent, as your falling even to leeward of *Carthagena* will put you sooner in the way of intercepting them, or some other of the enemy's trade bound for that part, than by losing time to beat to windward on this coast; and on your getting off the *Playa Grande*, you will stand well in, to observe whether any of the said ships or vessels are yet got in, as it appears by Capt. *Dennis's* journal none were got in on the 3d instant; and you are to continue cruising off *Carthagena*, or any station thereabouts, that by subsequent intelligence you may judge more proper for the intercepting them, or any of the enemy's trade coming or going from *Carthagena*, to the 10th day of *October* next, when you are to return for this port, for bringing me the best intelligence you can have procured on the said cruise.

And on your stretching over from the coast, you will keep as far to windward as you can, till you get into the latitude of this island, for your being in the way of falling in with me or my cruisers, in case a *French* war, or any other emergency, may have caused my putting to sea before your return; and after being got into the latitude of this island, not to make sail to leeward in the night, for not passing by me, or my cruisers, unobserved: But if in the course of your cruise, you should meet with any intelligence, that appears material for my information, you will, in such case, make the best of your way, for speedy informing me with it.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavour to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said *Spaniards* ships, persons, or effects, wherever you shall find the same on the seas,

seas, as you will all ships and vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port-Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 13th of *September*, 1742.

To Capt. *Cotterell*, of the *Lion*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

HAVING patched up cruizers sufficient to supply the stations to windward and to leeward of *St. Jago*, which are at sea under orders for that purpose, agreeable to the resolutions of our last council of war of the 4th instant, and got the convoy to sea with the succours, I may congratulate you on our having done all that was judged proper for us in our present situation: And having Capt. *Cotterell* in the *Lion*, a clean ship, ready for putting to sea on Friday next, who is under orders for cruising off *Carthagena* for a short time, to be in the way of intercepting any succours of men or provisions going there from *St. Jago*, if they should escape my windward cruizers; for by the *Experiment*, I know none was arrived there on the 3d instant; so hope my windward cruizers got to sea in time for laying in their way.

But as the *Lion*, Capt. *Cotterell's* ship, is greatly weakned by sickness and desertion, the latter of which amounts to 49 on this cleaning, I am under a necessity of applying to you to enlarge the detachment of soldiers now on board the *Lion*, of Brigadier *Blakeney's* regiment, from 47 to 90, an addition of 43 more than he has at present.

And as I have the *Deptford* storeship going on the same day for *New England*, I must beg the favour of your assistance of a sergeant, a corporal, and eighteen men for her, all my ships being reduced so low, as to have no seamen to spare from them.

And Capt. *Knight*, of the *St. Alban's*, now a clean ship, who has at present none of your forces on board, I must desire a present supply for him, of sixty men, to enable me to send her to sea.

I am sorry I have occasion to mention to you, that on Capt. *Watson's* going to see what guard was kept at the *Rock Fort*, there was no one there, or in the fort, but the centry upon duty, and two sick soldiers in the fort.

I shall soon have the *Greenwich* and *Experiment* ready for the sea; the former of which shall be under orders to look into *Cape Francois*, and the latter into *Port Louis*, for having certain informations of what is there, on the ill grounded rumours that have been flying about; for though I don't

give the least credit to them myself, I am for enquiring carefully into them as if I did, and shall be equally preparing against them, as if I believed them to be true, and have advised Gov. *Trelawney* to inspect and guard the passes into *Liguanea* against all surprize, as a prudent precaution for the security of this island, and which, if it had been timely done, would have prevented many desertions from his Majesty's service.

I have engaged the merchants of *Kingston* to undertake for the educating the four *Indian* boys, brought from *Caledonia* by the *Experiment*, Capt. *Dennis*, which I am persuaded you will think to be the most probable means of their becoming serviceable to the commercial interest of his Majesty's subjects. I am,

S I R,

*Byrne*, in *Port Royal* harbour,  
*Jamaica*, this 15th of *Sept.*  
1742

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE the opportunity of writing this to you by Capt. *Fowler*, of his Majesty's storeship the *Deptford*, going to load stores for the navy for *New England*; and as it is to be apprehended, he may have his men seduced from him in your province by the temptations of high wages, and other unjustifiable practices complained of, as she will be a very rich ship when loaded with the produce of your government, I must recommend it to you as of great consequence to his Majesty's service, (not only as her cargo is to enable his Majesty to put his fleets to sea, for the protection of the trade of his subjects, but likewise that it's falling into his enemy's hands, would be a great means to enable them to distress us) that she should go well manned from your province for her defence; and I must therefore beg the favour, you will assist him to the utmost of your power, for his going to sea well manned accordingly on his going for *England*.

I am glad I can acquaint you, I have got to sea the succour of 500 land forces, under the convoy of the *Shoreham* and *Spy*, the only ships I had then in condition for sea of a proper draught of water for going over their bars, which was the largest succour we were in condition for sparing in the tattered condition of our fleet, and low condition of our army, at a time the enemy have lately received a reinforcement arrived at *St. Jago*, and that we seem to have reason to expect daily advices of a *French* war.

From

From the accounts I have of your good sense and solid judgment, as well as zeal for his Majesty's service, I flatter myself of your paying a just regard to my recommendation to you, for the preservation of his Majesty's storeship the *Deptford*, and am

Boyne, in Port Royal harbour,  
Jamaica, Sept. 15, 1742.

Your Excellency's most  
obedient humble servant,

To his Excellency Gov. Shirley,  
at Boston in New England.

E. Vernon.

S I R,

I AM glad I can acquaint your Excellency, that the merchants of *Kingston*, on it's being recommended to them, have agreed to take upon them the care of the education of the four *Indian* youths, for their being brought up in a sober education, and instructed in such method, as may render them most useful to the enlargement of our trade in these parts, which I flatter myself from such care they may be rendered very serviceable to. And doubt not, but your Excellency will think it reasonable to recommend it to the assembly when they meet, to defray the expences such merchants may be at, for such their generous care in their education.

I find upon the late condemnation of a prize taken by Capt. *Laws*, there seems to appear a strange extension of power by our neighbours the *French*, in favour of the *Spaniards*, I think little short of levying an actual war upon his Majesty's subjects, a *French* commission being given to a *Spaniard*, going with a ship and cargo belonging to *Spaniards*, and armed in warlike manner, and with a commission to make war upon his Christian Majesty's enemies, pirates, or others; and when he was taken, his guns were loaded in an extraordinary manner, and every thing prepared for action, if the superiority of the force had not deterred him from it. I am enquiring into the circumstances of this extraordinary affair; for it's being a subject of future consideration, whether *French* seamen, acting under a *Spanish* Captain, and in a *Spanish* ship, should not be deemed prisoners of war, had they actually engaged, as they had prepared for it, I think it would have been out of doubt with me. One thing I am sure is exceeding plain, that they are daily increasing in all sorts of artifices for covering and protecting the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*. I am,

Boyne, Sept. 18, 1742.

Sir, your Excellency's most  
obedient humble servant,

His Excellency Gov. Trelawney.

E. Vernon.

By,



By, &amp;c.

Whereas through your leaving your station sooner than your time, and through inadvertency of others, my orders to you of the 17th of *August* did not come to your hands, as my directions in them, in regard to demanding our *English* seamen from *Port François* is as yet left unexecuted, they are now annexed to this order, and made a part of your present orders:

And there having been reports since, though not seemingly well founded, of a squadron of *French* ships being coming into these seas, and said to be intended to come to *Port François*, in order there to be joined by a *Spanish* squadron, and then jointly to come and invade this island:

As it is of consequence to his Majesty's service, that I should certainly be informed what truth there may be in it; you are hereby required and directed to get your ship ready for the sea with all possible expedition, and your provisions completed to three months, and immediately to put to sea, and make the best of your way off *Port François*, on the northside of *Hispaniola*, where you are to use your best endeavours for particularly informing yourself if any squadron or squadrons of ships of war be arrived in the said port; and if you find they are, to inform yourself the best you can of their number and strength, and make the best of your way for bringing me the earliest intelligence of it; and that you might not pass by me in the night, in case any advices of a *French* war, or otherwise, should have called me to sea, you are not to make sail to leeward in the night, after your being past *Cape Dona Maria*, in your way down here.

But in case you do not find any squadron of men of war in *Port François*, or any certain advice about any such speedily coming there, you are then carefully to execute my orders to you of the 17th of *August* in regard to *English* seamen: For your aid in which, Lieut. *Saunders* in the *Elizabeth*'s tender will have my orders to put himself under your command, and continue under your orders for the present cruize; and you may, on not meeting with any material intelligence for my speedy information, continue cruizing to windward off *Port François*, or off *Monto Christo*, for the space of fourteen days, when you are to return to this port for my further orders, looking carefully out for me in your way.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, wherever you shall find the same on the seas; as you will all ships and vessels you shall meet with going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores.

But on meeting with any of the *Guarda Costas* of his most Christian Majesty, you are carefully to preserve with them that good correspondence that ought to subsist between officers in the service of princes in amity with each other. For, &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 18th of *September*, 1742.

To Capt. *Laws*, of the *Greenwich*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

Whereas there have been reports, though not seemingly well founded, of a squadron of *French* ships being coming into these seas, in order to join the *Spanish* squadron, and jointly to invade this island :

As it is of consequence to his Majesty's service, that I should be certainly informed what truth there may be in it :

You are hereby required and directed to get your ship ready for the sea with all possible expedition, and your provisions completed to three months, and immediately to put to sea, and make the best of your way off the harbour of *Port Louis*, where you are to stand close in, for being fully satisfied, whether there be any squadrons of ships of war in that harbour; and if there be, you will inform yourself the best you can, of their number and strength; and on finding any such squadron there, or meeting with any certain intelligence of any squadron or squadrons of ships of war, being coming to the said port, you are to make the best of your way for informing me of it; and lest any advices might have called me out to sea, that you may not pass by me, you are not to make sail to leeward in the night, after your being past by *Cape Tiberoon*; and in case of meeting me at sea, you will make the best of your way to join me, with the advices you have procured: But, on not finding any squadron of ships of war arrived there, or any advices about them, you will in such case cruize to windward of *Port Louis*, and as high up as *Cape Alta Vela* for fourteen days; at the expiration of which term, you are to return to this port, for my orders for your further proceedings. All

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavour to take, sink, burn or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any prince to cover or protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, wherever you shall find the same on the seas; as you will all ships or vessels you shall meet with going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores.

But on meeting with any of the *Guarda Costas* of his most Christian Majesty, you are carefully to preserve with them that good correspondence that ought to subsist between officers in the service of princes in amity with each other. For, &c. Given on board the *Boyne*, in *Port-Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 18th of *September*, 1742.

To Capt. *Dennis* of the *Experiment*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

UPON dining with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to day, we have taken into consideration together, the two last letters you favoured me with, of the 16th and 20th.

And we heartily condole with you, for the increasing sickness amongst your forces, which we are in hopes there will soon be a speedy check to, as the present month is reckoned the last of the sickly months; so that we shall be every day growing into a season of weather more favourable to *European* constitutions.

We shall carefully avoid all applications to you for a further supply from the forces under your command, but where the necessity of his Majesty's service require it, through the disability of his Majesty's ships, so greatly reduced by sickness and desertions; and where that becomes necessary, we are persuaded you will be pleased, in having his Majesty's forces under your command employed in distressing his enemies in the only manner in which we are in condition for it at present.

We were pleased to find you added the weight of your advice to the Governor for the expediency of giving a proper attention to securing the passes into *Liguanea*, which if it had been done already, many of our great desertions would have been prevented, seamen being even now said to be so plenty on the north side of this island, that the merchant ships there pick and choose, and even refuse good seamen.

As

As it has been Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and my fate to have been on service in this island before, we believe in the low condition of your forces at present we may venture to assure you, it would not be possible to prevent an enemy, that should come here with a force to be superior to us at sea, from commanding a landing at pleasure, between *Port Morant* harbour and *Cow bay*; and that, in thinking to prevent it, the greatest danger would be, of having those troops cut off from a retreat into *Liguanea*; the preservation of which, we think, should be our present view; and we have consulted and formed our disposition for defending the town of *Port-Royal*, and the King's yard and stores there, as long as they can be defended; and for securing the channel by *Musquetto Point*, in case any such unhappy event should happen, as the enemy's coming to attack us, with a superior force by sea; and without their being superior to us at sea, think we have no reason to fear any attempts from them. By our latest advices from *Port François*, and *Port Louis*, there was no *French* men of war in either of them, and we have now the *Greenwich* and *Experiment* under orders for going off those two ports, for sending us the earliest advices of any squadron of the enemy's ships, or others coming to resort to either of them; and having our cruizers now posted both to the windward and leeward of *St. Jago*, are certain the north side of this island is in great security at present, and apprehend there are no parts can be defended there, but *Port Antonio*, *St. Ann's* harbour, and *Lucia*.

We are glad we can acquaint you, the merchants of *Kingston* have, on it's being recommended to them, undertaken for the education of the four *Indian* youths, in such manner, as may best promise for their becoming serviceable to the improving the commerce of his Majesty's subjects. The two *Frenchmen* are now on board the *Boyne*, for our future consideration, what may be proper to be done in regard to them.

And do entirely agree with you, that the *Spaniards*, who came voluntarily to serve as guides, for conducting your forces to *Panama*, should have a due care taken of them, especially as their becoming volunteers to serve his Majesty on that expedition, has (as *Lieut. Lowther* informs me) been the occasion of their being outlawed both in these seas, and the record sent home for outlawing them in *Spain*.

We have considered the complaint sent to you by Brigadier *Frazier*, and to prevent any occasion of complaint of the like nature for the future, have determined on immediately issuing the general orders we send you inclosed a co-



py of; and as soon as Capt. *Draper* returns into harbour, from his present cruize, under Capt. *Allen's* command, that complaint shall be particularly enquired into. We are,

*Sept. 20, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient humble servants,  
Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon,*

*C. Ogle.*

S I R,

S I R *Chaloner Ogle* and I, having met this evening, to read over together our letters from his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, are persuaded you will be of opinion with us, that it would be prudent to hold a general council of war, to consider of the properest methods for putting our orders in execution; and we shall therefore propose to you, for your approbation, our holding a general council of war on board the *Beyne*, on Tuesday morning next, at 8 o'clock; and upon your signifying your approval of it, I will order barges to attend for you and Mr. *Blakeney* at *Kingston*, the hospital, or wherever you desire, and send notice of it to Gov. *Trelawney*, and appoint a barge to attend for him at *Passage Fort*, and have the signal flying by seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, for our meeting by eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, or any other day you shall choose. We are,

*Beyne, Sept. 23, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servants,

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

*E. Vernon,*

*C. Ogle.*

S I R,

I HAVE just now received yours by Capt. *Wentworth*; and as the supplying the numbers of lieutenants and non-commissioned officers and soldiers, wanting to complete the ships to be left with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and completing the independent companies, were a previous step, seemed to be ordered you, before you could know what force you could have to carry home, and a prudent consideration how to do it from the *Americans*; we imagined, that would have been best considered together with the other points referred on a general council, where those of *Rattan*, and the necessary orders to be sent to those at *Carolina*, might, together with other minute affairs, had a fuller consideration, in a full assembly: for I think it should be avoided as much as possible, to have occasion of sending any but unserviceable *Americans* back to their own continent; apprehending they principally left it to seek a new habitation;  
and

and which I imagine most for the advantage of the Crown and kingdom; and these were principal motives with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me, in proposing to you meeting on board the *Boyne*, on Tuesday morning next, in a general council; as our advice to you in any shape, either in a full body, or a more select number, will, I apprehend, be best, before you form a disposition.

The Duke of *Newcastle* intimates, he apprehends 1000 or 1500 men will be wanting to complete the ships with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*; in which, I believe, he conjectures right; and probably the independent companies may want four hundred, or more; and then, if you are to send orders for filling up *Oglethorpe's* regiment from those sent to *Carolina*, I believe you will have very few or no private men to carry home with you. As I write this in a hurry, from a friend's house, where I only came for a day's airing and a little exercise, I have only to add, I will be on board the *Boyne*, to expect your company, whenever you design me that favour, and will desire Sir *Chaloner* to be so too: but I think considering it, in the manner we proposed to you, would be most for his Majesty's service, and your's too; and must desire you would excuse what may be amiss in suggesting my thoughts to you so much in a hurry. I am,

September 14, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I HAVE just now received yours by Mr. *Wallace*, who has a letter from me to Capt. *Knight*, to desire he would admit the exchange of the forces, now on board his ship, for a like number of others, in the manner you shall desire.

I have this morning again read over my letter from his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, and am clearly of opinion, there is nothing in it that dissolves the constitution of a council, that was established by his Majesty's instructions; for the dissolving of which, I apprehend, his Majesty's orders would be necessary.

And I think the maturely considering how the *Rattan* settlement is to be supported, and what orders are necessary to be sent to the forces sent to *Carolina*, both in regard to what might be done against *St. Augustine*, as well as what orders might be proper to send for completing Mr. *Oglethorpe's* regiment out of them, before their being ordered

home, are essential points for his Majesty's service, to be considered of in the council, assembled by his Majesty's instructions; and that a prudent care in what is to be done in regard to the *American* regiment, ought likewise to be considered in the said councils, besides several other affairs of lesser importance; and am of opinion, this council ought to be held before you can properly make any disposition.

The Secretary of State's letter, indeed, says nothing about *Rattan* or the succours sent to *Carolina*; but the reason for that is very obvious, because he had then heard nothing from us about them; but what we did in it was in conformity to his Majesty's instructions, which require our maturely considering how they ought to be supported.

Having much business on board to day, I shall not be at *Port-Royal* till to morrow evening, for giving necessary orders there, and spending the Monday consulting with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* on what ships I shall leave with him, designing to leave him as strong as possible I can; which I judge for his Majesty's interest, in regard to the many important services recommended to him. I propose to sail for *England* in the *Boyne*, some time in *October*; and shall, I believe, ease Sir *Chaloner* of such ships as could only create expence, without view of being of any service. The *Worcester*, I think, I shall appoint convoy to the trade, and the *Defiance* to the transports, if they cannot be ready when the next convoy to the trade sails; and that ship I propose for your accommodation likewise.

But as I have long thought, I could be of more service at home than here, I am determined to proceed with all convenient speed. I am,

*Boyne, September 25, 1742.*

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

UPON the unhappy calamity befallen the *Tilbury*, I am writing the general orders for my division as follows.

Whereas the fatal calamity befallen to his Majesty's ship the *Tilbury*, through the drawing of rum in a close cabin, requires the utmost circumspection for preventing such melancholy calamities for the future:

You are hereby required and directed to give out the strictest orders to all officers and others under your command, for prohibiting the drawing of rum, or any other spirituous liquors, on board his Majesty's ship under your command, in  
any

any other part of the ship but upon the open deck; under the penalty of cashiering, for any officers presuming to do the same, and exemplary punishment to any private man. For, &c.

Which, I desire, you will please to issue to yours accordingly.

Having much business to day, I can't get to *Port-Royal* till to morrow evening, when I shall stay all Monday there, having many affairs maturely to consider with you. I am,

*Boyne, Sept. 25, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient,

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Sir *Chaloner Ogle.*

S I R,

HAVING had a meeting to day with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, as I mentioned to you, we have read over together your letters of the 24th and one of the 25th, and have duly considered our respective orders from his Majesty's Secretary of State the Duke of *Newcastle*; from whence we cannot conceive the least grounds for what you suggest to be your thoughts, that the council, mentioned in his Majesty's instructions, subsists no longer; the contrary of which rather appears very plain to us from the following expressions in Mr. *Vernon's* letter, viz. " But, as I could have no particular orders to send you from his Majesty, till the King should know the success of the expedition against *Panama*, which, after it was determined at *Jamaica*, was necessarily to be undertaken, without waiting for directions from hence."

And as we are of opinion, that had his Grace known any thing of what had been resolved in the said council, either in regard to *Rattan*, or the succours sent to *Carolina*, he would have both expected and directed, that we should have met in council, to have maturely considered all that was necessary to be done in consequence of our former resolutions.

And as we are clearly of opinion, that council, established by his Majesty's instructions of the 10th of *July* 1740, still subsists, so we are, that it is for his Majesty's service, that we should meet in the said general council, to consider of what would be further necessary to be done, in regard to the resolutions of our former councils of war, about settling *Rattan*, and sending the succours for the preservation of his Majesty's colonies of *Carolina* and *Georgia*; and think the necessary measures, for cultivating that good correspondence, opened with the *Caledonian Indians*, is another point, fit to  
be



be considered of in the said general council, which we propose to you accordingly, for to be held on board the *Boyne*, on Friday next, the first day of *October*, when a barge or barges will attend for you and Mr. *Blakeney* at *Kingston* or the hospital, as you shall desire; and we shall, on your approval, send the same notice to Gov. *Trelawney*, and be glad we may meet at 8 o'clock that morning; being fully persuaded, a few hours spent in mutually communicating our respective orders, and deliberating on the most effectual measures of serving his Majesty, in consequence of them, would be both the shortest and securest way of pleasing our Royal Master, in the due execution of what he hath recommended to us.

His Majesty's views for the security of this island, we find, has graciously extended to directing you, to complete the eight independent companies, out of your private men.

And the Duke says, that his Majesty thinks a certain number of marines should be left on board, and remain there, under the command of the Admiral; and that the King has directed him to send you the necessary orders for that purpose; and that the number of these marines is to be proportioned to the number of ships that will be left by Mr. *Vernon* with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*; and supposes, that a thousand or fifteen hundred men will be as many as can well be disposed in the ships that will remain in the *West Indies*; and afterwards says, you have orders to leave two lieutenants to each marine company.

We, having maturely considered the many important services that are recommended to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, are clearly of opinion, he ought to be left as strong as possible in number of ships; and as they will be inferior to the *Spanish* maritime force in these seas, think it of the utmost consequence to his Majesty's service, they should be completed in their complements, as his Majesty directs; and that the number of eleven hundred marines is the least number, we think, his Majesty's ships ought to be supplied with from you, commission and non-commission officers included. We shall be obliged to you for a speedy answer, and are,

S I R,

your most obedient  
humble servants,

*E. Vernon.*  
*C. Ogle.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*:

*September, 27, 1742.*

S I R,

S I R,

I Send you inclosed a letter I have received this morning from Mr. *Wentworth*, which, I believe, you will think with me, was fully answered by our letter to him of yesterday.

We shall see by his next, whether he will change his opinion, in regard to the council, established by the King's instructions, subsisting no longer, or not. For from his changeable temper nothing can be determined long.

And if he will not come, we may on Friday next consider of such advice to be given him, as shall appear to us to be most for his Majesty's service. I am,

*Boyne, Sept. 28, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient

Sir *Chaloner Ogle*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

WE send your Excellency inclosed copies of our two joint letters to Gen. *Wentworth*; and for the reasons therein mentioned, with others that may greatly regard the security of this island, we desire you will give us your company on board the *Boyne*, by eight o'clock on Friday morning, where the signal will be flying for summoning the said council of war by seven o'clock, and a barge and officer will be in attendance for your Excellency at *Passage Fort*, by six o'clock on Friday morning.

*Boyne, Sept. 29, 1742.*

S I R,

your Excellency's

most obedient

humble servants,

His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon.*

*C. Ogle.*

S I R,

HAVING read over and considered together your two last letters, of the 27th and 28th, we find the former of them to have been fully answered, in our apprehension, in the principal parts, by our having, in our joint letter to you of the 27th, given you our reasons, why we don't think a council, established by his Majesty's instructions under his sign manual of the 10th of *July* 1740, to be dissolved by a letter from the Secretary of State, that says nothing of it, and, in our apprehension, in the paragraph we inserted in your letter, rather infers quite the contrary.

And we can't but express ourselves extremely surprized, that you could conceive any such thoughts, that the men, his  
Ma-

Majesty orders you to complete his fleet with, to be put under the command of the Admiral, and those you were to fill up the independent companies with, which will be then under the command of the Governor, should be supplied to us by sick and weak men out of your hospitals; which we conceive to be contrary to his Majesty's orders to you, and repugnant to the gracious intentions of his Majesty, who has appointed many important services to be executed by them: and must therefore assure you, no such men ought, or can be received as part of the eleven hundred men, we have demanded for the supply of the fleet.

And as we are clear in the opinion, the council, established by his Majesty's instructions, is not dissolved, so we are, that it ought to meet, to consider what should be further done in the three several proceedings, mentioned in our letter to you of the 27th, and begun by the order and direction of the said general council.

And as Mr. *Vernon* came out of *England* in the rank of a Lieutenant-General, and has presided at all the councils that have been assembled upon the execution of his Majesty's instructions, so we are clearly of opinion, according to all rules of military discipline, that it is his rank to summon and preside at such councils; and as you now seem to allow, you have hardly well men enough to supply what you are to furnish to the fleet and independent companies, who, as soon as they are detached from you, are to be no longer under your command, we can't conceive what right you would found in your self for convening such a council.

And therefore, on this occasion think it for his Majesty's service, to renew our request to you, to assist at the said council of war, on Friday morning next, the first of *October*, and to desire you will bring Mr. *Blakeney* with you; and a barge shall be attending for you by six in the morning, both at Mr. *Manning's* wharf at *Kingston* and at the hospital, as may be most convenient for you, and the signal for the said council of war will be flying on board the *Boyne* by seven o'clock Friday morning, the first of *October*; and the like summons and request is sent to Gov. *Trelawney*, desiring his company at the same time. We are,

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servants,

*E. Vernon.*

*G. Ogle.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth.*

*Boyne, Sept. 29, 1742.*

By

By *Edward Vernon*, Esq; Vice-Admiral of *White*, and Commander in chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels employed, or to be employed in the *West Indies*.

**W** Hereas the merchants of *Kingston* have applied to me for granting them a convoy for their trade bound to *Great Britain*; alledging they have twelve sail of ships and other vessels, that will be completely loaden, and ready to sail by the 20th of *October*, and having granted them what they request :

You are hereby required and directed to be ready to proceed as convoy to them for *Great Britain*, on the said 20th day of *October*; and as his Majesty has sent his directions to Gen. *Wentworth*, for the return of the remaining forces under his command, after having supplied his Majesty's ships to be left here with the number of marines wanted to complete them, to be under the command of the Admiral, and completing the complements of the independent companies serving in this island; you are further directed to take under your particular care and protection all such transports and storeships, as shall by Gen. *Wentworth* be then ready to sail with you; but you are not to delay your sailing with the trade in the least upon their account, as Capt. *Hore* in the *Defiance* will have my orders for remaining to come home convoy to the rest of the transports, with the remaining corps of officers and soldiers that are designed for returning home.

And you are immediately upon the receipt of these my orders, to give publick notice of it in the three towns of *Kingston*, *Port-Royal*, and *Spanish Town*, of your being appointed convoy to the trade bound for *Great Britain*, which you shall be ready to sail with accordingly, on the said 20th day of *October*, as desired; and that you shall give convoy likewise to all transports and storeships, ready to sail with you, and any of the trade bound to the *Northern* colonies, as far as your way shall lye together.

And you are immediately to make the signal for all masters of merchantmen, for knowing who design to take the benefit of your convoy, that you may be timely providing all necessary sailing orders for them, and to desire them to be ready on the day desired, which you are hereby directed to sail on, that you may get them through the windward passage before the north season sets in, which will be most for their advantage; and you will, on your getting into the channel with them, see them as high up as



the *Downs*, if the wind be favourable for you; or at least as high up the channel as the wind will permit you; and at the first port you shall anchor with them, in the channel of *England*, you will immediately advise their Lordships of it, and desire the favour of their orders, for your further proceedings, in all other respects referring you to the directions in my former general orders. For, &c. Given under my hand on board the *Boyne*, in *Port Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 29th of *September*, 1742.

*E. Vernon.*

To Capt. *Cleland*, Commander of  
his Majesty's ship the *Worcester*.

S I R,  
THOUGH we were not favoured with your company nor Gen. *Wentworth's* at the council held this day, according to summons and signal, yet we thought it our duty maturely to consider of the further execution of the three former resolutions of our general council of war, which I herewith send you inclosed.

As we could have no other view in it, but what was most for his Majesty's honour and service, I hope, at least, you will add such advice of your own to Gen. *Wentworth*, as appears to you most for the service of the Crown and prosperity of the kingdom. I am,

S I R,

*Boyne, Oct. 1, 1742.*

your Excellency's most  
obedient humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*.

S I R,  
THOUGH we were not favoured with your company nor Gov. *Trelawney's*, at the council held this day according to summons and signal, yet we thought it our duty maturely to consider of the further execution of the three former resolutions of our general council of war, which we herewith send you inclosed:

And can't but observe to you, that in the orders mentioned to be sent to you in the Duke's letter to Mr. *Vernon*, it is there mentioned there are to be left with each company two Lieutenants with non-commission officers, &c. But in your computation of what well men you have to supply the demands of the fleet, you don't seem to include the commission and non-commission officers; and if each company had a larger proportion than ordinary of non-commission

mission officers, in case of a scarcity of well private men, we apprehend that would be for his Majesty's service.

And are clearly of opinion, that all your weak and feeble men ought to be dispatched and embarked for *England* by the first convoy, as most tending to their speedy recovery, as well as a speedy ease to the Crown, of the great burthen for transport service. We are,

Byrne, October  
1, 1742.

S I R,

your most obedient humble servants,

E. Vernon,

C. Ogle.

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

My Lord Duke,

MY last letter to your Grace was of the 6th of *September* by the *Sheerness*, Capt. *Ward*, sent home express with them from hence, duplicates of which letters are made up to accompany this to your Grace.

On the 8th and 9th of *Sept.* I got to sea the *Tilbury* and *Defiance* of sixty guns, in a proper station for intercepting all ships or vessels going from *St. Jago* to *Carthagen*.

And I got to sea on the 11th the *Grafton* of seventy guns, and *Ludlow Castle* of forty guns, to go to leeward of this island, to cruize off *Cape Cruz*, and the *Adventure* to go after them on the 14th for intercepting all ships and vessels from *St. Jago* bound to the *Havanna*, or *La Vera Cruz*; and after cruising in their appointed stations for ten days, they were then to come and join together off *St. Jago*; and after cruising there for seven days, to come off the east end of this island for cruising there for ten days, for joining me, if any advices call me to sea, or hearing further from me, by some of my cruisers, as they would be all in the way of our proceeding to the execution of the resolutions of our general council of war of the 28th of *June*, in case of our having any advice of a *French* war.

Capt. *Brodrick* in the *Shoreham*, appointed to command the convoy with the succours for the preservation of the provinces of *Carolina* and *Georgia*, was ready to sail, and had his final orders from me on the 8th of *Sept.* but waiting for the transports being ready detained him till the 14th of *Sept.* when he put to sea with them, with his own ship, and the *Spy* sloop; and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of my orders to him of the 8th, and on the 13th I got to sea the *Fowey* of forty guns, as convoy to the homeward bound fleet of merchant ships through the windward passage,

under orders of joining Capt. *Brodrick*, to strengthen his convoy, if they met at sea, or if he was before him, to cruize in the windward passage for fourteen days after his parting with his convoy, and until he had seen Capt. *Brodrick* with the transports all safe through the windward passage; and on the 17th I got the *Lion*, Capt. *Cottrell*, a clean sixty gun ship, for cruizing off *Carthagena*; and hope your Grace will think, that I have omitted nothing on my part for putting fully in execution the resolutions of our last council of war of the 4th of *September*.

On the 9th having had informations, taken on oath, of the traiterous expressions of *John Savey* (till very lately a Lieutenant in the *American* regiment) of whom you have had an account of his former traiterous practices in my letter of the 6th, I thought it my duty to take the earliest measures for securing him, from putting such his traiterous declarations in practice, which I had reason to apprehend he was taking the earliest and most probable means of putting in execution, by having taken his passage in a brigantine bound to *Carolina*, and accordingly having had him apprehended, committed him on board the *Grafton*, Capt. *Allen*, one of whose Lieutenants Mr. *de la Motte* was a prisoner at the *Havanna*, and witness to many former declarations of his disloyalty and treachery to his Majesty and his country; and I send your Grace now inclosed copies of the abovementioned affidavits of the 9th, and of a letter to me, from his Majesty's Attorney General here, (upon desiring his advice) what was proper for me to do in it, and likewise the copy of my order of commitment on board the *Grafton*, where I reserve him for the future consideration of our council of war, when any fresh advices shall make the convening of one necessary.

I send your Grace likewise inclosed a copy of a letter from me to Gen. *Wentworth* of the 10th of *September*, and of a joint one of the same date from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to him, and of one from me of the 12th to Gov. *Trelawney*, in regard to the securing *Savey* for his treasonable expressions, and communicating to them our opinions in regard to the security of this island, if there was any thing to be apprehended from the advices brought from the coast by Capt. *Dennis*, from the reports of a *Spaniard*, from a *Frenchman* trading at *Cocles*; which though I give no credit to, I am acting in every respect as if there were grounds to apprehend it; and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of the information at large, of the proceedings of Capt. *Den-*

*nis* and Lieut. *Lowther* on their late voyage to *Caledonia*, and cruize in those parts ; and am glad I can acquaint your Grace, that I have engaged the merchants of *Kingston* to undertake for the careful education of the four *Indian* youths they have brought over with them, as hostages of their sincere intentions to cultivate a friendship with his Majesty's subjects. The youths are all sprightly, and from nine to fourteen years of age ; and I hope from being carefully and soberly educated, and instructed in the advantages of a mercantile commerce, that they will in time be brought to be useful messengers for opening new branches of commerce, to the great enlargement of the trade and commerce of his Majesty's subjects in these seas.

As Gov. *Tinker*'s late letter from *Providence*, only inclosed to me copies of the letter and intelligence, long since received from Gov. *Bull* of the 7th of *July*, and his apprehensions the *Spaniards* might make him a visit in their return from *Georgia*, which I can't think worth their while, and know our convoy pass so near him, as they would most probably hear of it, if they did, I do not think it necessary to trouble your Grace with the copy of his letter : but I send your Grace inclosed a copy of a joint letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to Gen. *Wentworth*, of the 20th of *Sept.* giving him our opinions upon the necessary measures to be taken, if there should prove any truths in the reports of the *Spaniards* from the *French* ship at *Coclee*.

And I have got the *Greenwich*, Capt. *Laws*, to sea on the 23d of *Sept.* with one of my sloop tenders, for gaining all necessary information from cruising off *Port François* and sending the tender in, to demand all our *English* seamen from thence.

And on the 25th the *Experiment* Capt. *Dennis* will put to sea for inspecting what ships are in at *Port Louis*, and cruizing off there, so think all my cruizers well posted, for procuring the earliest intelligence of the enemy's proceedings, and preventing all dangers from any surprize : I shall soon have the *St. Albans*, Capt. *Knight*, of fifty guns, and *Seaborse*, Capt. *Durell*, of twenty guns, both clean ships, and fit for the sea ; and am ready for putting to sea myself in the *Boyne*, I have my flag on board, on any intelligence requiring it.

Sir *Chaloner Ogle* in the *Cumberland* is along side the *Lark* reducing to a hulk for taking out his guns, and heeling, caulking, and new sheathing as low as they can, as the *Boyne* has done ; and the *Rippon* and *Montagu* two sixty gun ships are careening, so we shall have a succession of clean ships,



ships, and are cleaning and refitting all our tatter'd ships as fast as the conveniencies we have, and the scarcity of carpenters and caulkers will admit of.

On the 23d of *Sept.* in the evening arrived in this harbour the *Gibraltar*, Capt. *Fowke*, with the long-wished-for letters and orders from your Grace ; and upon taking them into consideration with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* that very evening, we agreed the most effectual way to have his Majesty's orders duly executed would be for us all to meet at a general council of war for communicating our respective orders, and considering of the most speedy and effectual measures, not only for the due execution of them, but for maturely considering of all necessary measures for supporting the settlement of *Rattan*; what further might be necessary to dispatch after the forces gone for the defence of *Carolina* and *Georgia*, and might be proper to be done in many other particulars, we judg'd might require the deliberation and direction of the general council, and accordingly join'd that very night in a letter, proposing to Gen. *Wentworth* our meeting in a general council, as established by his Majesty's instructions of the 10th of *July* 1740, and proposed having it held on board the *Boyne* on Tuesday the 27th of *Sept.* if he approved of it ; and I send your Grace inclosed the copy of our joint letter to Gen. *Wentworth* of the 23d of *Sept.* at night : but Gen. *Wentworth* having in his letters to me, of the 24th and 25th, declined any such meeting as unnecessary, and declared his opinion, that the council mentioned in his Majesty's instructions of the 10th of *July* 1740, subsists no longer ; though I had in my letter, in answer to his, given him my reasons to the contrary, I judg'd it for his Majesty's service maturely to take his letters into consideration, with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, on the 27th ; and send your Grace inclosed a copy of our joint letters to him on that day, desiring we might have such general meeting on board the *Boyne* on Friday the 1st of *October*, and likewise a copy of our subsequent letter to them of the 29th of *Sept.* insisting that the council ought to be held there accordingly.

It is with great concern for the melancholy incident I have to acquaint you, that on the 24th of *Sept.* return'd into port the *Island Sloop*, bringing with her the Captain and part of the officers and crew of his Majesty's ship *Tilbury*, which took fire at sea by accident, and burnt and sunk in the sea on the 22d inst. off the *Navassa*, Capt. *Hore* in the *Defiance* having taken on board one hundred and forty more, the other part of the crew saved, and proceeded on the execution of the latter part of their orders, I shall not be able

to hold a court martial, to enquire into all particulars of this fatal incident, at the trial of the Captain and officers for the loss of the ship, till the *Defiance* returns into port, where many persons, necessary to be examined as witnesses in it, now are.

But by what I have heard of it, it owed it's origin to a marine soldier snatching a bottle of rum the Purser's boy had in his hand in the Cockpit, together with a candle, saying, he would have a dram out of it, which the other refusing, and he struggling to force it from him, the bottle fell down and broke, and the candle falling into the rum, set fire to that, which communicating to other rum in the Purser's cabin began the fire, that they say all their diligence could not extinguish, but must refer those particulars to what shall appear on the future trial; and am concerned to add, that what is certain is, that besides the loss of so fine a sixty gun ship, above a hundred of his Majesty's subjects and servants have perished on this occasion, amongst which are the Master, Boatswain, Gunner, and a marine Officer; they say in their endeavours to save her, they threw over all the gunpowder for preventing blowing up, and continued their endeavours till she was sinking with them.

Immediately upon the advice of this fatal incident, I judged it for his Majesty's service, to give out the strictest general orders in writing, for preventing any like calamitous incidents from spirituous liquors, a copy of which, of the 25th of *September*, I send your Grace, and the serving them to the ships company was under the like general orders before, for being done upon the open deck.

On Friday the first of *October* Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and I met in council on board the *Boyne*, according to the regular summons and signal, directed on like occasions, and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of the resolutions come to in it, as appearing to us most for his Majesty's honour and service, and which agreeable to the said resolutions, a copy of has been transmitted to both General *Wentworth* and Governor *Trelawney*, inclosed in a joint letter from me and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* to Gen. *Wentworth*, and in a letter from me to Governor *Trelawney*, which your Grace has likewise inclosed copies of.

I cannot be insensible, how great a concern the disappointments on our several expeditions must have been to our Royal Master; but must humbly beg leave at the same time to say, in behalf of myself and the officers and men that have served under my command, that no part of the disappointment

pointment is justly to be attributed to his Majesty's sea forces, nor do I think it was in want of courage or inclination to serve his Majesty in his land forces, but that it principally owes this unhappy event, to the command falling into the hands of Mr. *Wentworth*, who has approved himself no ways equal to it, \* \* \* \* \*

\* \* \* \* \*. And though I pretend to very little experience in military affairs by land, yet it is my opinion, that if the sole command had been in me, both on the *Carthagena* expedition and the *Cuba* one too, that his Majesty's forces would have made themselves masters both of *Carthagena* and *St. Jago*, and with the loss of much fewer men, than have died through his imprudent conduct in many instances.

I thank your Grace, for the assurances you have given me, that you have regularly laid before the King all my letters as they came to your hands, which is all the favour I could justly beg of your Grace, and having only now to return your Grace my hearty thanks, for that piece of justice and your obliging good wishes, and as I propose sailing myself with one hospital ship and one fireship, for weakening Sir *Chaloner Ogle* as little as possible, by the 18th inst. I hope to be very near home by the time this letter comes to your hands. I am,

*Boyne, Port Royal,  
harbour, Jamaica,  
October, 2, 1742.*

My Lord Duke,  
your Grace's most devoted and  
most obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

SIR *Chaloner Ogle* and I have read over, and considered together, your letter of the 2d instant.

As your not meeting us at the council makes us unacquainted with what the Duke of *Newcastle* has mentioned in his letter to you, we can only say, it appears plainly to us, from what he mentions to be your orders to Mr. *Vernon*, that you ought to leave two Lieutenants of each company of marines left to serve on board the fleet under the Admiral's command, and think it would be for the honour and service of the Crown, if you are short of marine Lieutenants, to fill them up with Lieutenants from the *American* regiment, and cannot agree with you, that there is any necessity for a private man from each company, being reserved to take care of the baggage, as you will have so many non-commissioned officers, that will have little else to do.

We think the resolutions of the council of war, as we have transmitted to you of the first of this month, are regular resolutions of the council established by his Majesty's instructions, though you did not think proper to assist at it; and we are the more confirmed in that opinion, from Governor *Trelawney* having in his letter of the 2d, in answer to the copy of the said resolutions sent to him, said as follows. "I do myself the honour to agree in sentiments with you, as to the two former points, and as to the latter, viz. the succours sent to *Georgia*, I think it would be going out of my sphere to concern myself any farther, than to put in my claim that the independents may be completed if necessary, out of those five hundred men." So you see, Sir, the resolutions we have sent you a copy of have the concurrence of three of the original council established by his Majesty's instructions; and we hear you were never pleased to communicate to Brigadier *Blakeney*, that the said council was summoned to meet. So we have only to add, that we look on the resolutions of that council to be what you ought to conform to, and must answer for the consequence of doing otherwise. We are,

S I R,

October, 4, 1741.

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.your most obedient  
humble servants,*E. Vernon.**C. Ogle.*

P. S. If you think, Sir, there is any point in the Duke's letter to you, that requires your taking my particular advice upon it, if you will please to advise me of any day you design me the favour of your company on board the *Boyne*, I will be sure to be in the way of receiving you.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Have received your Excellency's letter of the 2d, and was pleased to find our resolutions met your approbation, though you had not thought proper to favour us with your company in concerting them.

As I am now speedily going from this island, and think it my duty to give my advice in what appears to me for his Majesty's service; you will be so good to excuse it on this occasion, that I give you my advice unasked for, since that is my principal motive in it. Your Excellency knows I was present both at the transaction and trial, you thought proper to have Sir *Chaloner Ogle* summoned to, for an assault, and convinced from both, and all I have heard to

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have



have mentioned it since, that your Excellency was the aggressor, both in word and in deed; and considering it's being likewise in your own house, I own it matter of surprize to me, that you have not thought since of making your apology to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, for such indecent transports of your passion, which is what I cannot but say, I think you ought to do; and as I well know Sir *Chaloner Ogle's* generous and humane nature, I am persuaded, in regard for his Majesty's service, he would have no difficulty of accepting a gentleman-like apology for it, in order to your carrying on the King's service with that harmony that ought to subsist between officers in the service of the same Prince.

I have suggested what I thought would be for your credit, as well as his Majesty's service; if it proves a happy means of a reconciliation, I shall be rejoiced at it; and thought I could not decently leave this island without suggesting to you my thoughts in it. I am

*October 4, 1742.*

your Excellency's most

obedient and most humble servant,

His Excel. Gov. *Trelawney*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

THIS comes to inclose to you the copy of my orders to Capt. *Cleland* of the *Worcester*, for his taking under his care, protection, and convoy, all such of your transports, or storeships, that shall be ready to sail with him, on the twentieth of this inst. *October*, the day the merchants have desired for his sailing convoy to their trade for *Great Britain*.

I have sent the *Island* sloop out, to call in Capt. *Hore* of the *Defiance*, who will have my orders to accommodate you with his cabin, and to take under his care, protection, and convoy, the remaining transports and storeships that shall not be got ready to sail with the *Worcester*.

And I reserve the *Gibraltar*, Capt. *Fowke*, a twenty gun ship (I have orders to return to *England*) for carrying our orders to *Carolina* in her way home, and be a part of the convoy to the transports and storeships from thence. I shall send Capt. *Brodrick* a copy of the resolution of the council of the first of *October*, with my orders to him to conform to them, and to deliver them to Col. *Durero*, and to acquaint him, that I think he ought to conform to them, and must answer at his peril, for his not doing so. And shall order Capt. *Brodrick* to detach the *Spy* convoy to any of the transports, that may have your orders for bringing any detach-

detachment of the private men from thence, either for completing the proportion of men you are to supply to the fleet, or for filling up the independent companies.

*Boyne, Oct. 6, 1742.*

I am, Sir,

your most obedient

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

**Y**OUR letter of the 5th was brought me from *Kingston*, by Lieut. *Parchard*, this day at noon, in his return from *Kingston*, where he went with a letter from me to you, dated this morning.

And I will take care, as you desire, to have my barge with a Lieut. in attendance for you at the *Hospital Bridge* by eight o'clock Friday morning, and will send to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, to favour me with his company the same day, that all things may be duly considered you may have to propose.

As the *Spanish* guides were procured at your desire for the service of the army, and have been outlawed both in the *Indies* and in *Spain*, for their inclination to serve you in the proposed expedition to *Panama*; it has been matter of surprize to me, you have given no orders in it yet, they having been sublisted at the navy expence, which I hope you will direct the re-payment of, especially as I have taken one off your hands, as he may be capable to serve as a pilot by sea.

I forgot in mine to you this morning to mention to you, that I propose sailing in the *Boyne* with the hospital ship and fireship on the 18th, and have by the *Bristol* ship transmitted home to his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle* a copy of the resolution of the council of the 1st of *October*, and whatever you may have to recommend to me I shall punctually observe your directions in. I am,

S I R,

*Boyne, Oct. 6, 1742.*

Your most obedient

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

**I** Have employed your Secretary, Mr. *Morrice*, to take out a transcript from my letter, from his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, and to attest himself as copy'd by him from the original, as I think it is there declared to be Mr. *Wentworth's* orders; first, to complete all the marine companies that are to serve on board the fleet, and to have two Lieutenants and all non-commissioned officers with each company, and in case of their not being sufficient, to leave complete companies of the *American* regiment to make up the number wanted, provided they are willing. I thought

I thought it proper to send you this transcript to day to consider of, that you might be better prepared to take notice of it to General *Wentworth* to morrow. I am,

Bayne, October 7, 1742. S I R,

Your most obedient humble servant,  
His Excellency Gov. *Trelawney*. *E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

**W** Hereas Capt. *Cleland*, of his Majesty's ship *Worcester*, has at the request of the merchants received my orders for sailing on the 20th inst. *Octob.* convoy to the trade bound for *Great Britain*, and likewise to take under his care, protection and convoy, all such transports and storeships as should by Gen. *Wentworth's* orders be got ready then to proceed with him: you are hereby required and directed to get his Majesty's ship *Defiance*, under your command, refitted and ready for the sea with all possible expedition, and to complete your victualling to four months provisions for your said voyage, and are together with the *Lightning* bombketch, Capt. *Harrison*, who has received my orders to put himself under your command, to take under your care, protection and convoy, all such transports and storeships, as are by General *Wentworth's* orders to proceed for *England* under your convoy.

And as Gen. *Wentworth* proposes going himself at the same time, you are required and directed to accommodate Gen. *Wentworth* with your great cabin, for his passage to *England* with you, and to receive on board and victual as you do your ship's company for the said voyage, both himself, officers, and servants, of his necessary attendants.

And for easing the *Lightning* bombketch that is to accompany you under your orders, and for the better protection of the said convoy, together with her tender, you are to receive on board his Majesty's ship the *Defiance* under your command, the large mortar from the said bombketch, as I have already ordered the small one to be received by the *Princess Royal* hospital ship, Capt. *Douglass*, and as soon as the *Worcester* shall be sailed, you will make your signal for all masters of ships, for knowing what transports and storeships are to proceed under your convoy: And you will likewise take under your care, protection and convoy, all merchant ships that shall be then ready, and desirous to proceed with you. And when Gen. *Wentworth* shall signify to you that he is ready for proceeding to sea with the rest of the transports and storeships, designed by his orders for going home, you will accordingly proceed to sea with them, taking the said transports under your care, protection and convoy,

voy, and to make the best of your way with them through the windward passage for *Spithead*, if the wind shall favour your getting so high up the channel with them, or putting in at the first port you can most conveniently fetch, in regard both to the craziness of your own ship and theirs, where you are immediately on your arrival to write to the Secretary of the Admiralty to inform their Lordships of your arrival, and to desire the favour of their orders for your further proceedings, in other respects referring you to my former general orders. For, &c. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, in *Port-Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 8th of *October* 1742.

To Capt. *Hore*, Commander of his Majesty's ship the *Defiance*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

Y Our letter of the 10th came to my hands this day at noon, and Capt. *Hore* has my orders and will send the *Americans* on board the *Mary* transport to morrow morning.

The *Worcester*, being appointed convoy to the trade as well as the transports that are to proceed with her, must sail on the day appointed for her.

And as the cruizers are not returned into port, that you was pleased to say you must wait for, and Capt. *Hore* cannot get the *Defiance* watered and ready to proceed to sea so soon, there is no view of their sailing together. And I think the convoy is fully sufficient, without there being any occasion on that account to wait for each other.

And they will be the stronger, if you will please, as you proposed to us, to let a detachment of the serjeants and corporals ordered home go home in them, for which they shall have the necessary orders, whenever you let me know their numbers you desire may go home that way, which I think would be for his Majesty's service. I am,

*Boyne, October 11, 1742.*

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

Hon. General *Wentworth*.

S I R,

Y OUR letter of this day came to my hands here by Capt. *Wilmot*, Mr. *Hinde* being indisposed having brought me up here, for transacting some business with him.

Soon after my writing to you yesterday, I received a petition from the merchants of *Kingston*, desiring that their appointed convoy, the *Worcester*, might delay her sailing to Monday the 1st of *November*; which being but a short delay,



lay, I could not refuse them; and I am satisfied the *Defiance* will be ready to proceed to sea by that time; so, if it is most agreeable to you, Capt. *Hore* may be ordered to join the *Worcester*, and all sail in one convoy, both trade and transports.

As there is so few of the marine sergeants and corporals well, I shall dispense with their company in the *Boyne*; but those four, you mention to be so, will be very acceptable on board the *Princess Royal* hospital, which is a fine large ship, but weakly handed.

Capt. *Durell* in the *Gibraltar* has my orders for taking under his convoy the transports with the returned *Americans*; and whenever they are ready, and your orders for Col. *Durore* at *South Carolina*, he shall immediately proceed to sea with them.

I shall send the *Island* sloop to morrow morning, for calling in the *Grafton*, *Ludlow Castle*, and *Adventure*; and doubt not but they will be here in a week or less.

The *Defiance*, Capt. *Hore*, will be moving towards the *Rock Rivulet*, for trimming his cask for the voyage, and completing his watering, which may probably take him near a week there; as in a long voyage it is necessary to be securely furnished with that necessary and useful element.

He will be ready to receive you, whenever you desire it; but I imagine you would not desire it till he returns from the *Rock*, when he will stop off *Kingston*, for the more commodiously receiving you.

The *Defiance* and *Worcester* will be glad of what assistance you can give them from your sergeants and corporals that are in condition for service; and shall have my orders for receiving and victualling such as you shall be pleased to order to strengthen their weak complements.

Mr. *Hinde*, our storekeeper, by my order, this day sent the two receipts to Mr. *Colebrook*, for fifty dollars, that he had advanced for the subsistence of your two *Spanish* guides; but he refused paying them, alledging he had not yet received your orders for it; which you will be pleased to send him, and desire him to send Mr. *Hinde* notice that he is ready to pay him; as many complain of his giving them much unnecessary attendance. I am,

*Kingston, Oct. 12, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient,  
humble servant,  
*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

AFTER heartily congratulating you on the favourable accounts brought us from *Rattan* by Capt. *Lea*:

Being

Being fully persuaded the council, constituted by his Majesty's instructions of the 10th of *July* 1740, under his royal sign manual, cannot possibly be superseded by a letter from his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, that mentions nothing of it; I cannot but judge it to be my duty on this occasion, as the General Officer of highest rank, and first named in the said instructions, to convene the said council to meet by eight o'clock on Saturday morning next, on board the *Boyne*, for considering what is farther proper to be done, for supporting a settlement so happily begun; and the signal will be flying for assembling the said general council by seven o'clock on Saturday morning; and a barge with an officer will be in attendance for you at the same time at Mr. *Manning's* wharf at *Kingston*; and I desire you will be pleased to bring Mr. *Blakeney* along with you, and to direct the attendance of Mr. *Armstrong*, as I will of Capt. *Lea*.

I write a letter of the same tenour to Gov. *Trelawney*, and shall have a boat with an officer in attendance for him the same morning at *Passage Fort*. Sir *Chaloner Ogle* is now at *Spanish Town*, but is to be back at a court martial on board the *Boyne* on Friday; and you know his sentiments and mine are the same, in regard to the general council still subsisting. I am,

*Boyne, Oct. 13, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

YOU having been pleased to excuse yourself from favouring us with your company at the council assembled to day:

We have, agreeable to the duty we owe to his Majesty, and the best conceptions we can form for his Majesty's service, from such evidence as we had before us, drawn up the resolutions of the council; which, we think, are such as all the members of the council, composed by his Majesty's instructions of the 10th of *July* 1740, ought to conform to. And we accordingly here send you inclosed a copy of the resolutions of our general council of this day. We are,

*Boyne, Oct. 16, 1742.*

Hon. Gen. *Wentworth*.

S I R,

your most obedient

humble servants,

*E. Vernon.*

*C. Ogle.*

Letters of the same tenours and dates as the above two were sent to Gov. *Trelawney*, inclosing a copy of the resolutions of the council in the latter.

S I R,

S I R,

I HAVE received with great deal of pleasure your letter by Capt. *Lea*, which gave Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me great satisfaction, to find every thing to answer even beyond expectations.

And a sloop being upon sailing from hence for your island, I would not slip the opportunity of writing to you by her, and sending you inclosed a copy of the resolutions of our general council of war of yesterday; being persuaded it is what the wilfully absent members ought to conform to, and, I believe, on reflection, will do so.

As you will find in the said resolutions every thing has been fully considered you recommended to me, and will, I doubt not, be speedily put in execution; this comes to give you the earliest assurance of it;

And to direct you to have a copy of the said resolutions fairly written and attested by you to be a true copy; which you will deliver to Major *Caulfield*, with a copy of this my letter to you, and best wishes for your mutual agreement and good success in your present undertaking.

And as I am upon sailing for *England*, you may be assured I will endeavour to procure his Majesty's speedy orders for regulating every thing in the best manner, and having due notice taken of such as execute his Majesty's orders with the duty and alacrity they ought to do, with a proper animadversion on any who shall do it with reluctance.

The cheerfulness and vigour with which you have exerted yourself in it are extremely pleasing to me; and I will take care to do justice to your merit in it; with my service to Major *Caulfield* and Mr. *Pitt*, I am,

*Boyne, Oct. 17, 1742.*

S I R,

To Capt. *Cusack* of the  
*Litchfield*, at *Rattan*.

your most humble servant,

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

HAVING upon the receipts of our orders from his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*, his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, of the 5th of *August* last, had a council of war, regularly summoned and convened for the first of *October*, I herewith send you inclosed a copy of the same, together with a copy of a subsequent letter from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me to Gen. *Wentworth* of the 4th of *October*.

And you are hereby required and directed, in what regards the detachment of forces by sea and land, for succouring and defending his Majesty's provinces of *Carolina* and *Georgia*, strictly to conform to the several resolutions of the said council, both in regard to their preservation, and the annoyance

of the enemy, if a council of war should judge it practicable in your present circumstances.

And though Gen. *Wentworth*, and Gov. *Trelawney* thought proper to absent themselves from the said council, yet the latter, by a letter to me of the 2d, said, he did himself the honour to agree in sentiments with us. And Gen. *Wentworth* at a meeting with Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me, at his own appointment on board the *Boyne*, on the 8th inst. was pleased to approve of all proposed in our said resolutions, in regard to your expedition, and to promise he would send his orders to Col. *Durore* conformable to them, which I hope he has done.

But at all events, on these orders, and the inclosed resolutions of the council of war of the 1st of this inst. *October* coming to your hands, you will have a fair copy of the resolutions of the said council of war, drawn out and attested by you, to be so, as likewise of these my present orders to you, which you will either deliver into Col. *Durore's* hands yourself, or send them by an officer for proving the delivery of them, with my service to him, and that I think he ought to conform to them.

Gen. *Wentworth* by our orders, which were to me and him, both of the same tenor, was to supply the fleet with what number of men were demanded for that service in the first place, but of the demand of eleven hundred, little more than seven hundred being yet supply'd, you are, to insist upon it with Col. *Durore* that all non-commissioned officers and private men, of his detachment fit for service, after your expedition ended that are not wanted to complete Gen. *Oglethorpe's* regiment, should be sent in some of the transports under convoy of the *Spy* for *Jamaica*, to make good the deficiency to be supplied the Squadron under Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, agreeable to his Majesty's orders signified by his Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

And upon his conforming to what we take to be clearly his duty, you are to send them for *Jamaica* under convoy of the *Spy* sloop, and to proceed to *England* yourself in the *Shoreham*, together with the *Gibraltar*, taking the rest of the transports, together with the *Susannah* ordnance storeship, and the trade from thence under your convoy.

And if any of the transports, with the returned *Americans*, should have put in at *Carolina* with the *Gibraltar*, and want convoy further to the Northward, you will give the necessary orders to some of the stationed ships with you to convoy them accordingly, or see them into the sea and part of their way by the *Gibraltar*, if no stationed ship should be with you.

And upon your arrival at the first port in the channel



you can most conveniently fetch, you will advise the Secretary of the Admiralty of it, and desire their Lordships orders for your further proceedings.

All *Spanish* ships and vessels you shall meet with, you are to use your utmost endeavours to take, sink, burn, or destroy.

And as to the daring and unauthorized attempts of the subjects of any nation to cover and protect the ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, you are not to permit the same, but to seize the said ships, persons, or effects of his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards*, wherever you shall meet the same on the seas, as you will all ships or vessels going to supply his Majesty's enemies the *Spaniards* with contraband stores. For, &c. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, in *Port-Royal* harbour, *Jamaica*, this 18th of *October*, 1742.

To Capt. *Brodrick*, Commander of  
his Majesty's ship the *Shoreham*.

*E. Vernon.*

By, &c.

AS you have herewith delivered you the orders for Capt. *Brodrick* of the *Shoreham*, and the resolutions of the council of war of the first of *October*, you are immediately to deliver them to him, on your arrival at *Carolina*, or your joining him elsewhere. And in case of Capt. *Brodrick's* death, or absence from *Carolina*, on your arrival there you will open his orders, and conform to them till you join him, and in case of his death govern yourself by them, and in all things conform to the due execution of them. For, &c. Given under my hand on board his Majesty's ship the *Boyne*, this 18th of *October*, 1742.

To Capt. *Durall*, Commander of  
his Majesty's ship the *Gibraltar*.

*E. Vernon.*

S I R,

I Got through the capes of the windward passage the 1st inst. and a strong North wind coming on the 2d. I bore up for *Corydon* for recruiting our water, and got through again the 8th, but having the wind Northerly, I could not beat up to *Heneago* till the 13th, when the wind coming Easterly in the first part of the night, gave us a most favorable passage through the difficultest part between *Acklins Key* and *Mirapervaux* this evening, and I write this to go by my pilot to morrow morning, hoping by that time to be clear of *Crooked* island. I spoke with several ships and sloops from *Jamaica*, and some *French* ships and vessels, and find they are under apprehensions there will be a war; and that cannon are arrived, for erecting another fort at *Petit Guavas*, which is  
said

said to be intended for the general loading place for all ships in the gulph, so that if you should have a call that way, it may be the sooner the better, before they can put projected works in execution. With my best wishes for your health, prosperity, and success in all you undertake, and service to all friends, I am,

*Boyne off of Acklins Keys,* SIR,

Sunday Nov. 14, 1742.

your most obedient humble servant,  
Sir Chaloner Ogle at Jamaica. *E. Vernon.*

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace was of the 2d of *October*, which went home in the *Union* a *Bristol* ship, that sailed from *Port-Royal* harbour the 4th of *October*, a duplicate of which and of my letter by the *Sheerness* of the 6th of *September*, will accompany this letter to your Grace.

I am concerned, I should have such frequent occasions to give your Grace the trouble of so many inclosed copies of letters to read; but as they are material for your being enabled fully to inform his Majesty in all particulars, I could not excuse myself from it, and rely on your Grace's goodness to excuse me in it.

The first I must trouble your Grace with is a copy of a joint letter from Sir Chaloner Ogle and me to Gen. *Wentworth* of the 4th of *October*, in which we expressed our sentiments that he ought to conform to the resolutions of the council of the first, especially as Gov. *Trelawney* has signified his approbation of them, which made a majority of the general council.

Being willing to attempt a reconciliation between Sir Chaloner Ogle and Gov. *Trelawney*, before my leaving *Jamaica*, as I judged it to be most for his Majesty's service, I must next trouble your Grace with the copy of my letter to Gov. *Trelawney* of the 4th of *October*, and of his very extraordinary letter of the 5th, in answer to it; which being a picture of himself, of his own drawing, more to the life than I could pretend to do, I was pleased with having the occasion of transmitting it to you.

And there comes next inclosed copies of two letters of mine to Gen. *Wentworth* of the 6th of *October*; and on the 8th of *October* I was favoured with his company and Sir Chaloner Ogle's on board the *Boyne*; when, upon comparing our letters from your Grace, they were found to be both of the same tenour; and he was in very good humour, and agreed that the resolutions of our council were just, and promised he would send orders to Col. *Dwore* conformable to them.

On the 12th of *October* arrived Capt. *Lea* in the *Bonetta*; and I send your Grace inclosed the copy of my letter from Capt. *Cusack*, from the island of *Rattan*, of the 25th of *September*; to which I have added a copy of a letter from him likewise to Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, and the invitation for becoming settlers, signed by Major *Caulfield* and Mr. *Pitt*.

And on this favourable news thought it my duty to convene the general council again for the 16th of *October*, for having their joint resolutions taken on this important affair, before my sailing; and Sir *Chaloner Ogle* being at that time absent on business of his own at *Spanish Town*, I send your Grace inclosed the copy of my letter of summons to Gen. *Wentworth*, of the 13th of *October*; and I sent another of the same tenor to Gov. *Trelawney*.

But they having excused themselves, on the same pretence as before, we proceeded maturely to consider all the evidence we had before us, and drew up the resolutions of our council of the 16th of *October*; which I here transmit your Grace a copy of, as likewise of the joint letter from Sir *Chaloner Ogle* and me, inclosing to both the copies of the resolutions of our council of war, with our joint opinions they ought to conform to them. And I send you likewise inclosed the copy of a letter to me from Gov. *Trelawney*, of the 18th of *Oct.* approving of our said resolutions; which, he says, as it began (though he was for putting the expedition off) he thinks ought by all means to be supported and encouraged.

There being a trading sloop, with a cargo of forty thousand pound, going for *Rattan*, for trying to open a trade in those parts, I embraced the occasion of writing by her to Capt. *Cusack*, and sending him a copy of the resolutions of the council; and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of my letter to Capt. *Cusack* of the 17th of *October*.

And I send your Grace inclosed a copy of my orders to Capt. *Brodrick* of the *Shereham*, of the 18th of *October*, which I have put into Capt. *Durrell's* hands, to deliver him who commands the *Gibraltar*, appointed to sail convoy with the transports for *Carolina*, as soon as Gen. *Wentworth* shall have them ready to sail, and shall have sent him his dispatches for Col. *Durore*.

On the 19th of *October* I put to sea, having left the necessary orders behind me with Capt. *Cleland* of the *Worcester*, and Capt. *Hore* of the *Defiance*, and Capt. *Harrison* of the *Lightning* bombketch; the former being to sail convoy to the trade and transports on the 1st of *November*; and if Gen. *Wentworth* and all the transports are ready against that time, then the *Defiance* and bombketch are to put themselves under

der Capt. *Cleland's* command, and to sail all together, and if not, the *Defiance* is to stay to come convoy to the transports that are not then ready.

On the 20th I met with the *Grafton*, *Ludlow Castle*, and *Adventure*, from their cruizing off *St. Jago*, and ordered them into *Port-Royal* harbour, there being some of the *American* regiment on board them; but had *John Savey* from the *Grafton* committed for safe custody with Capt. *Watson* in the *Boyne*, till his Majesty's further pleasure can be known; judging it for his Majesty's service to bring him home, for receiving the just reward due to his profligacy and treachery to his King and country; and I send your Grace inclosed a copy of *Lieur. De la Motte* of the *Grafton* his account of his behaviour at the *Havanna*, &c.

On the 21st met with the *Island* sloop, I had ordered to cruize for them, and sent her in; and saw two sail, one to the Northward and one to the Southward of us, going for *Port-Royal* harbour, of which I took the Northermost to be the *Fowey*, from the windward passage, and the Southermost the *Lion* returning from her cruize off of *Carthagena* and to windward of it. I took the *Rippon*, Capt. *Rentone*, of sixty guns, and the *Seahorse*, Capt. *Fowke*, of 20 guns, both clean ships, to sea with me, for having them at hand to station them as should appear most for his Majesty's service, from the intelligence I might expect to meet from my cruizers.

And I must not omit informing your Grace of the account I had brought me by Capt. *Lea* and others, in regard to Commodore *Anson*. He says, Mr. *Pitts*, our present Chief Justice of *Raitan*, informed him, that he had it from a *Spanish* merchant, that came out of the country to trade at *Truxillo*, that Commodore *Anson* had taken an *Aquapulco* ship, fully loaden for *Aquapulco*, and carried her away for the *East-Indies*. This intelligence was given him by Mr. *Pitts* the 28th of *September*. And another Capt. *Pitts*, formerly in the *South-Sea* company's service, and now trading at the *Garrote* near *Porto Bello*, in a paragraph of a letter to Mr. *Manning* at *Kingston*, of the 14th of *September*, says, "I am informed by a good hand, that Mr. *Anson* appeared off of *Aquapulco* one day, and the ship bound for *China* was to have sailed the next with eight millions of pieces of eight on board, but on seeing our ships, she is laid up: so Mr. *Anson* sailed one day too fast. I am sorry for it."

The former account seeming to be of an *East-India* ship, coming to *Aquapulco*, I hope both their intelligences may prove to be true.

I have, agreeable to your Grace's orders, given Sir *Chaloner*



*Jonet Ogle* all the light I could, in regard to services to be performed on a *French* war or otherwise; which are indeed plainly enough pointed out in the resolutions of former councils of war, copies of all which he has; and have left with him, as your Grace directs, copies of all such papers, of any kind whatsoever, as I judged might be of use to him, or he thought so; having, I thank God, lived in that friendship and harmony with him, as to have kept nothing a secret from him.

And he has behind under his command Capt. *Rentone*, captain of the *Rippon*, Capt. *Macpherson*, purser of the *Cumberland* and muster-master of the squadron, and Lieut. *Lowther*, whose informations have been materially serviceable to me; and there is Capt. *Lea* in the *Bonetta*, whom your Grace will find Capt. *Cusack* in his letter mentions as an experienced pilot in the bay of *Honduras*; and in justice to the officers in general, left with Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, I believe I may add, that neither he nor I could expect or desire to serve at the head of a better set of officers.

The agents for the Commissioners for the victualling his Majesty's navy having applied for my orders to defend a cause of the property of the Crown, against the Crown's own officers, that, to their sole private advantage, were prosecuting a cause against the Crown; I thought it my duty to grant them the orders they desired, for defending the property of the Crown; which suit being now coming home, by way of appeal to his Majesty in council, I think it my further duty to communicate to your Grace the particular narrative of the facts, as related to me by the said agents, in their letter to me of the 30th of *September* last; which being a clear narrative of the whole proceeding, I have here sent your Grace inclosed a copy of it; being persuaded your Grace will take care to preserve the property of the Crown, from thus becoming a prey to those in the immediate service of the Crown; no one else appearing to me in any sort interested in the said prosecution.

I got through the capes of the windward passage on the first of *November*; but a strong North taking us the next, I bore up for *Corydon*, and anchored there to recruit our water, and got through the capes again by the 9th, where we found the North still continuing; but being grown moderate, kept plying with such of our trade as I had overtaken in our way; and on the 15th got past *Crooked* island, and saw all the stragglers we had come up with in sight, being two ships, a brigantine, and two sloops, only one of the ships bound to *England*. We spoke with several *French* ships

ships and vessels in our passage, who are in expectation there will be a war; and learnt that guns were arrived at *Petit Guavas* for the erecting another fort for the defence of that harbour, which was, in case of a war, to be the general loading place from all the loading places in the gulph of *Leogane*.

I have left the *Rippon* and *Seaborse* under orders to cruize to windward of *Port François* for twenty days, and then return to *Jamaica*. The *Experiment* that was cruizing off port *Louis*, I heard passed to the Northward of me, for *Jamaica*, on the 25th of *October*, and conjecture the *Greenwich* from *Cape François* must have passed by me in the North, the beginning of this month but believe you will soon receive what intelligence they may have met with, from Sir *Chaloner Ogle*, by the *Worcester* or *Defiance*.

And being now out of the way of expecting to meet any thing material in our passage to *England*, I chuse to conclude this letter to your Grace here, and to leave to a future letter after my arrival, what may offer in our passage worthy your information. I am,

My Lord Duke,

*Boyne off of Crooked island,  
November 15, 1742.*

your Grace's most devoted and  
most obedient humble servant,

His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*.

*E. Vernon.*

My Lord Duke,

MY last to your Grace of the 15th of *November*, closed after my getting through the windward passage, which informs your Grace of all my latest transactions in the *West-Indies*, and there accompanies these likewise the duplicates of my letters to your Grace by the *Union Bristol* ship of the 4th of *October*, and those that went home by the *Sheerness* in the beginning of *September*, which have I hope come regularly and safely to hand.

For our occurrences in our passage since, have only met with much blowing weather and a great tumbling sea, I think our three deck ships should not be subject to such long winter passages in. In one hard gale of wind lost company with the *Phaeton* fireship a hundred leagues on this side *Bermudas*; and in another with the *Princess Royal* hospital, in the lat. 46. And meeting the wind at S. S. E. upon our coming into soundings, the first land we made was St. *David's* head, on the 26th, and I have been ever since struggling to get to the Westward, but the wind having blown out to the S. W. quarter, with very thick weather and hard gales, has put us under the necessity of taking shelter under the island of *Lundy*, at the mouth of *Bristol* channel, no desirable situation, but

but here we must wait for a favourable wind for getting out into the sea again.

And I cannot omit this occasion to give you as my opinion for his Majesty's service, that in my apprehension, no one spot of ground in the *Indies* is better situate for the prospect of opening new branches of trade into the kingdom of *Mexico* through *Guatimala*, to *Mexico* and *Aquapulco*, and for securing to us the logwood trade, and that I think no time should be lost for sending the earliest orders to support the *Rattan* settlement.

As those Westerly winds set in, with blowing hard on this full moon, affords little prospect of getting from hence suddenly; I shall be obliged to your Grace, for having sent to me early orders for my coming to pay my duty to our Royal Master, and afterwards taking care of my private affairs, after so long absence from my family.

And your Grace may send your letter to *Brisfol* to be forwarded to me at *Lundy* if we are here, or returned if the wind should have favoured our getting away, which there is no likelihood of at present.

This comes express by my first Lieut. an experienced officer of eleven years service as such, and a sensible gentleman.

There comes in this ship likewise three Captains of the late *American* regiment, gentlemen who have all the appearance of officers of service, and are sensible gentlemen; their names are Captains *James Mercer*, *Thomas Louverie*, and *William Hepburn*; and when they arrive in town, your Grace may hear of them at the *British* coffee-house; and believe an enquiry from any of them, you may be assured of a sensible and just answer to any of your enquiries.

I have brought home with me the two *French* seamen that were of the company of those established in the gulph of *Darien*; and have entered them for wages in this ship; and believe your Grace would have them in town, for examining them your self, and you will be pleased likewise to signify your pleasure, what is to be done with that profligate Canary bird *John Savy*, who comes home a prisoner at large in this ship likewise.

I have not time for adding more, than my duty to your Grace, who am,

*By me*, at anchor under the  
island of *Lundy*, *Decem.*  
30, 1742.

My Lord Duke,  
your Grace's most obedient  
and most humble servant,  
His Grace the Duke of *Newcastle*. *E. Vernon.*

